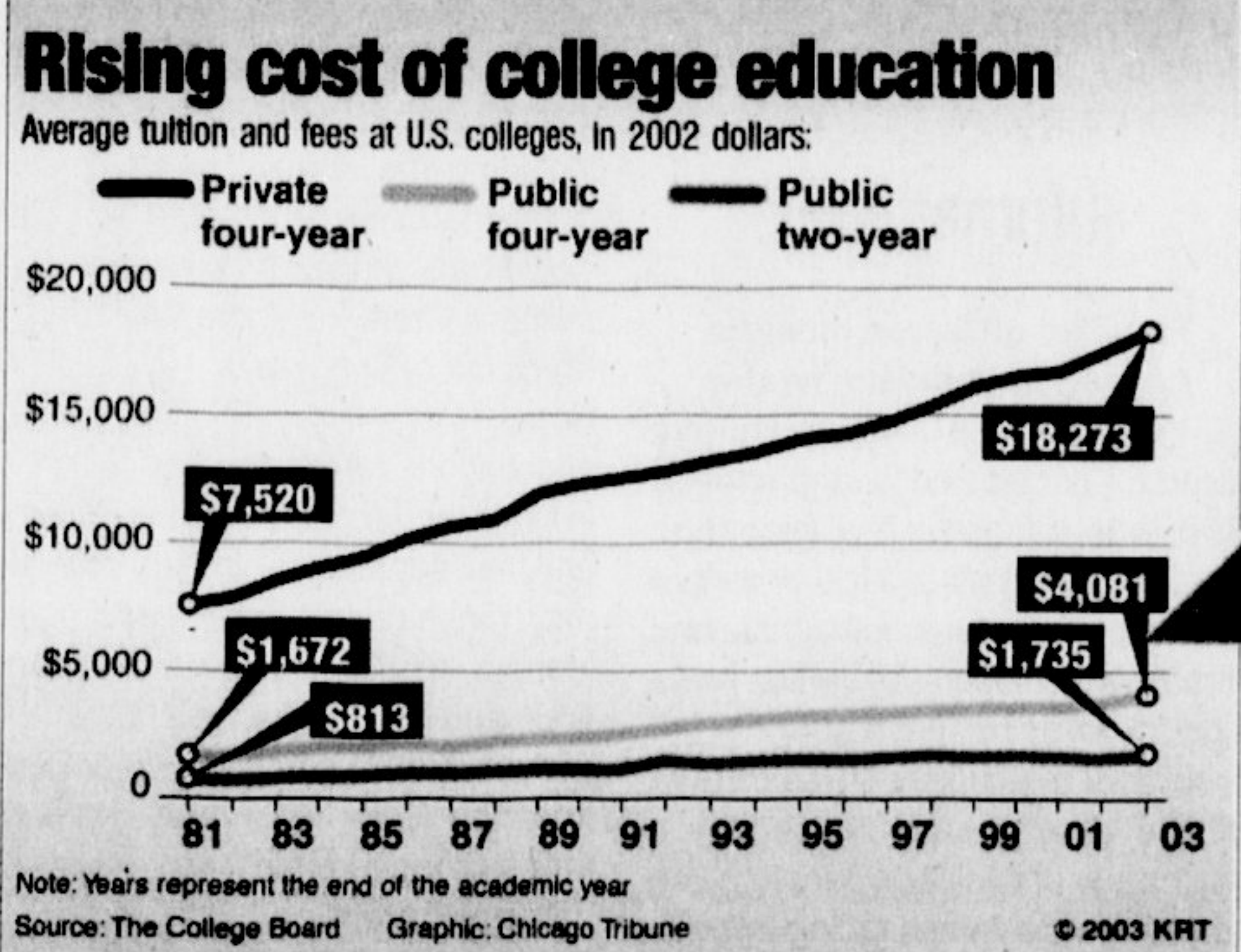


BOG rejects UNC system tuition increase proposals for following year



Officials say other resources of funding must be considered

NICK HENNE
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Governors decided not to endorse the proposed tuition increases for in-state undergraduates for the 2005-2006 school year.

One major reason the board voted against the increase was that tuition has been raised several times over the past several years and has not solved the existing problems.

Out-of-state and graduate student tuition increases are still being considered and will be decided on by the BOG in its March meeting. The budget and finance com-

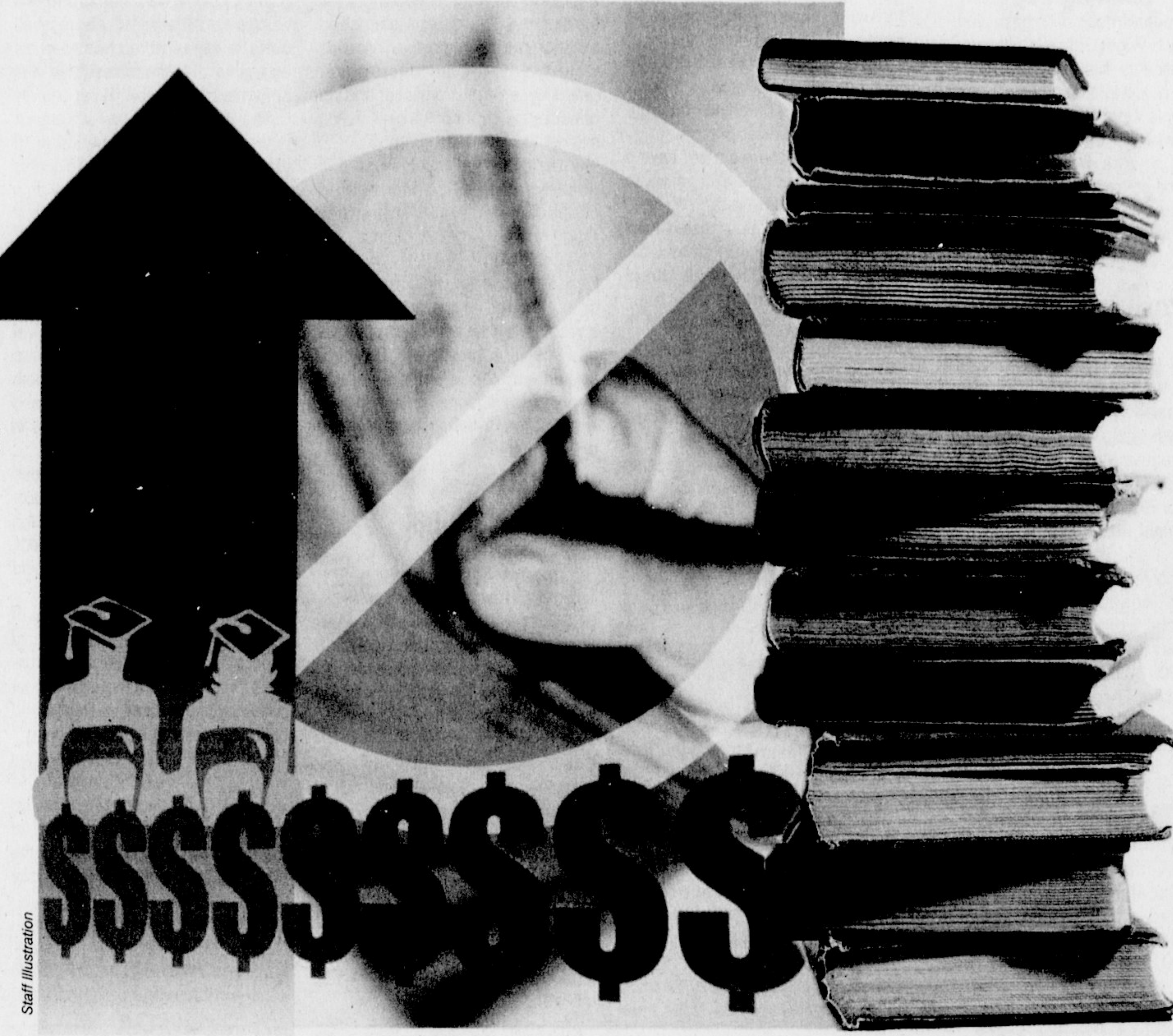
mittee met for seven hours Thursday and heard presentations from 15 of the 16 chancellors within the UNC system about the need to increase tuition. They then considered these arguments and debated the issue among themselves before unanimously making a recommendation to the full board not to endorse tuition increases to any of the UNC system schools.

The main arguments from the various chancellors included

"We have raised tuition over the last five years and the problem is not solved. That would certainly suggest that we're not going to solve the problem through tuition increases."

-Brad Wilson Chairman of the Board of Governors of NC

the universities need additional funding for faculty recruitment, retention and need based financial aid. "The needs that we are hearing about today are the same as we heard five years ago ... We have raised tuition over the last five years and the problem is not solved. That would certainly suggest that we're not going to solve



the problem through tuition increases," said Brad Wilson, chairman of the Board of Governors of North Carolina. "We can't raise tuition fast enough or high enough to solve the issues that we continue to hear about ... that's impossible." Wilson said the reasons for

the proposed increases are virtually identical with every university, and the needs addressed are not specifically unique to ECU. The main incentive in increasing the faculty salaries was to help attract new and more qualified faculty and help retain the current faculty, in addition

to expanding the need-based financial aid. Wilson said universities get their funding from three places including state appropriations, tuition and fees and private sectors or gifts from alumni and federal and state grants. He said universities are able to

look to these other resources to help serve the issue, but would still be faced with challenges to adequately meet their needs. "None of those revenue streams have been adequate to keep up with the dramatic

see TUITION page A3

City mandates heightened fire safety measures in Greek houses

Fire alarms become a house requirement

AMBER PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

The City of Greenville has implemented a Jan. 1 deadline for all off-campus Greek houses to install an approved fire alarm system in an effort to increase fire safety.

The new standards require the houses have fire alarms that meet current standards set by the National Fire Protection Association.

The City of Greenville was granted approval from the NC General Assembly, permitting the city council to require all Greek houses to install an approved fire alarm system. The Greenville City Council adopted the ordinance Feb. 15, 2002, and gave the Greek houses three years to raise the money for fire alarm installations.

ECU Greek houses have all complied with the ordinance and have been approved by the National Fire Protection Association. A fine of \$100 was set for each day after the deadline if alarms were not installed.

Funding for the alarm installations was raised through alumni, loans and nationals. The price of the added requirements ranged from \$3,000 to \$16,000, depending on the house and what they were having done.

This policy was mandated partly because of the tragic incident in 1996, in which two brothers of the Delta Chi fraternity at UNC-Chapel Hill were killed in a fire in their fraternity house. The two men were not warned of the fire because there was no fire alarm.

"Fire safety is top priority," said Ion Outterbridge, director of Greek life.

"We are being proactive in that we are making these houses safe, and this was the final step



Tau Kappa Epsilon completed their renovation and is now the first Greek house on ECU's campus to have a sprinkler system as a fire safety measure.

to ensure their safety."

Outterbridge was in charge of making sure the Greek houses were informed and in compliance with the ordinance. Certain houses went through a complete renovation and during the construction, they added fire alarm systems. Greek houses that underwent recent demolition include Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Kappa Tau and Alpha Delta Pi. Tau Kappa Epsilon is finishing their renovations and is the only fraternity that installed a sprinkler system within their house.

Students expressed appreciation in knowing their Greek houses will be safer.

"We hope to lead the way for other Greeks," said Tim Asbill of

Tau Kappa Epsilon. "Yes, fire alarms must be installed, but having a sprinkler system adds to my confidence of being safe."

Amy Williams, senior management major and sister of Alpha Delta Pi, said the number of people who live in Greek houses requires stricter safety needs.

"Greek houses are a fire hazard. There are so many people in one house that safety should definitely be top priority. I am glad it [fire alarms] is mandated," said Williams.

Every city fire department within the state was in charge of setting up a time schedule for the deadline to have these systems

installed. Outterbridge expressed his sincerity toward this issue by saying that he was "proud of the sororities and fraternities in that they are all in compliance."

Other UNC system schools are required to carry out this mandate as well.

"Delta Chi of UNC-Chapel Hill experienced something that I pray will never happen again in anyone's sorority or fraternity, so this is the first step in preventing fires and establishing fire safety, so if a fire were to break out, the people inside could escape," said Erin Bullock of Zeta Tau Alpha.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

TKE becomes the first Greek house to install sprinkler system

AMBER PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has recently completed a \$230,000 renovation of its house and is now the first Greek house to have a sprinkler system fire security measure.

The brothers and local alumni of the fraternity stripped 80 percent of the house away to save costs and construct an improved house that would place safety as the top priority.

"This house was in condemnable shape ... and the work was hard and dirty, but worth it," said Nathan Gminder, alumni president of TKE.

Gminder visited the TKE house during homecoming in 2003, when he realized something had to be done to make house improvements. He joined with another chapter alumnus, Don Trotman, and made a phone list of all alumni in hopes of creating a bank for the men of TKE to use for the renovation project.

"We were at ground zero. The house was going to be foreclosed, so we started making phone calls," Gminder said.

Trotman and Gminder collected at least 80 alumni contributors who helped renovate the house dedicated to the late Colonial Charles R. Blake. Blake was an assistant of the chancellor for 25 years and TKE's adviser. He was also Gminder's father-in-law.

Gminder, having survived the fire in 1982, wanted to make safety the first and foremost issue when building the house. Gminder was unharmed in the fire, but lost all of his possessions and made the installation of a sprinkler system in the house a top priority instead of the standard alarm.

Delta Chi at UNC-Chapel Hill

lost two brothers to fires in 1996. The City of Greenville mandated an ordinance to make each Greek house have fire alarms within the house by Jan. 1, 2005. TKE is the first fraternity to use a fire sprinkler system.

"There have been numerous times when a brother has fallen asleep with a cigarette in his mouth and escaped unharmed, but Delta Chi of UNC-Chapel Hill was not as fortunate," said Ryan Romasko, current brother of TKE.

Gminder said the installment of the sprinkler system set the move-in date back and four of the brothers lived in a hotel room at the East Carolina Inn for the fall semester. Six resided there in January. Others who were involved with the renovations include Cliff Cahoon, Robert Still, Scott Buck and Ray Craft. Gminder expressed his gratitude for the professional, efficient work these men contributed.

"When road blocks appeared, these are the men [including Trotman] who I could call upon for help," Gminder said.

Not only was a fire alarm system required by the city council, but TKE had to alter the renovations a bit to meet specific requirements such as including a handicap ramp, handicap equipped bathroom and handicap parking space.

"These adjustments are a good thing because everyone should be able to accommodate handicapped persons," said Tim Asbill, old risk management director for TKE.

Eight people now live in the house, and the brothers have started to move in.

"This has been a dream. With all the help of the alumni, we made it a reality," said Trotman.

"Making safety the top priority was a good idea in that we hope to have set the standard for obtaining a fire alarm a little higher. We want other Greeks to have a sprinkler system for safety

see TKE page A3

Campus News

Tsunami Relief

The College Democrats will collect \$1 donations to help victims of the tsunami this week at Wright Plaza.

African American Reading Day

The department of English and Ledonia Wight Cultural Center are sponsoring this free event from 2 - 4 p.m. It will take place in the Ledonia Wight Cultural Center. If you wish to read a few minutes from a work by your favorite author or text, contact Seodial Deena at 328-6683 or e-mail deenas@mail.ecu.edu.

Sexual Responsibility Week

The ECU Healthy Pirates and Wellness Education are sponsoring many events for this year's Sexual Responsibility Awareness Week. There will be a Wheel of Health and STD Fear Factor Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wright Plaza. Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wright Place, they will host "Healthy Relationships: Be a Smartie." A Family Feud Special Edition: Battle of the Sexes will also be Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in C309 Science and Technology Building. The event is free and the first 100 people will receive a safer sex kit.

VM Raffle Winners

The raffle winners from this weekend's performance of *The Vagina Monologues* should be posted on their Web site by Wednesday. Visit ecu.edu/wost/event.html to see who won.

Spring Career Fairs

The first of many career fairs will be held Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building. This fair will include information for careers in industrial technology and computer science. These career fairs are provided by Student Professional Development at ECU. For additional information, visit ecu.edu/e3careers or call 328-6050.

Slam Poetry Jam

The Spectrum and Cultural Awareness Committees are sponsoring the Slam Poetry Jam in the Pirate Underground Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

A Tribute to Motown

The school of music will host a concert honoring Motown artists Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Carroll V. Dashiell, Jr. will be the director for the evening. Call 328-6851 for more information.

ACSS Workshop

Adult and Commuter Student Services and Janie Sowers, clinical director of child development and family relations, will present a series of workshops designed to help students keep a healthy relationship with their significant other while balancing school, work and a family. These workshops beginning Feb. 18 will cover topics including money, roles in a relationship, sex, children, fun and relaxation. All workshops will be held in 212 Mendenhall from 12 - 1:30 p.m. For more information, please call 328-6881.

Salsa Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a salsa dance Feb. 18 at the Willis Building downtown. Instruction by Procopio and Heidi begins at 7:30 p.m. and the dance with DJ Ramon will be from 8:30 - 11 p.m. Students can be admitted for \$3, FASG members for \$5 and the general public for \$8. Call 752-7350 for more information.

Want your event printed in TEC? Please send your announcement along with the date, time, location and contact information to assistantnewseditor@theeastcarolinian.com.

News Briefs

Local

Durham police arrest four in city's largest cocaine bust

DURHAM, NC - Police arrested four men and seized 167 pounds of cocaine, worth \$1.9 million, in what officials said was the largest cocaine bust in the city of Durham's history. The arrests occurred two weeks ago, but were announced Monday by Police Chief Steve Chalmers. Officers also seized \$150,000 in cash, nine vehicles, a gun, a money-counting machine and drug-packaging materials.

"I feel that these arrests will have a significant impact on drug activity in Durham," Chalmers said.

Police identified the arrested men as Jose Antonio Martinez-Mora, 32; Alfredo Castillo, 31; Rene Utrera Pulido, 31 and Gregorio Martinez-Mora, 29. They were charged with attempting to possess 500 grams (1.1 pounds) or more of cocaine, possession of 500 grams or more of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

With two interstate highways passing through the city, Durham long has been on major drug routes, particularly north-south on I-85. Police said the men were being held by the U.S. Marshals Service.

Police Capt. Steve Mihaich said drug dealers shouldn't relax.

"The chief has directed us to not only look at crack houses but mid- to high-level dealers, as well," he said. "I think the main message is we're going after the big ones and not just the little ones. And it's not over."

Judge finds topless club in contempt

GRAHAM, NC - An Alamance County judge ruled that a topless club has violated a court order preventing workers from erotically touching customers for money.

Superior Court Judge Leon Stanback Jr. fined the Dockside Dolls club

\$1,000 on Monday, the maximum allowable and said he will consider an order shutting the club down between now and a March trial on a nuisance-abatement complaint.

"I think there was a willful violation" of the court order, Stanback said. "They had cameras in the room, and they should know what goes on in those rooms."

Pastors and churchgoers who want the club put out of business watched testimony Monday from the Alamance County sheriff, an undercover detective, a Baptist preacher and an unhappy neighbor of the club, which sits next to Interstate 85/40.

The undercover officer testified that employees touched him behind closed doors in the club's "champagne room" and other private rooms.

The county sued the club in September after an undercover operation led to the arrest of four dancers on charges of selling drugs and soliciting prostitution. The club has stayed open while a trial is pending, but under an order that bars workers from allowing illegal conduct on the property.

National

Inmate advocates worry about defrocked priest's safety

BOSTON - Defrocked priest Paul Shanley, one of the most recognizable figures in the Boston Archdiocese sex scandal, faces the possibility of life in prison for his conviction on child rape charges.

But some inmate advocates say whatever term Shanley gets could amount to a death sentence.

Another key figure in the scandal, former priest John Geoghan, was beaten and strangled behind bars in 2003, a year after being convicted of molesting a 10-year-old boy. A fellow prisoner later told investigators he killed Geoghan "to save the children."

Shanley was scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday.

"He's so high-profile that that puts a big target on his back," said James Pigeon, a lawyer at Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, a group that provides civil legal services to inmates. "We feel concerned. Obviously he's a vulnerable person because of his notoriety and his age." Shanley, now 74, was once known for being a hip "street priest" who reached out to troubled children, homosexuals and other disenfranchised. He was convicted last week of repeatedly raping and fondling a boy at a church in the 1980s. He could get up to 10 years in prison on each of two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child, and up to life on two counts of child rape.

Michael Jackson defense reveals star-studded witness list

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - Michael Jackson's defense lawyers announced they may call Elizabeth Taylor, Jay Leno, Quincy Jones and Kobe Bryant to the witness stand in the pop star's molestation trial.

The list of possible witnesses sounded like coming attractions for a major Hollywood spectacle. But the judge in the case dimmed that prospect, saying not all of the celebrities would necessarily testify.

Attorneys are in the process of selecting 12 jurors and eight alternates who will decide whether Jackson molested a teenage cancer patient at his Neverland Ranch and piled the youth with alcohol.

Names of defense and prosecution witnesses were revealed to prospective jurors Monday so attorneys could find out if any of the more than 240 members of the pool had associations that may be important in jury selection.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. also named Jackson's children, Paris and Prince Michael. Possible prosecution witnesses included

Debbie Rowe, their mother.

Other possible witnesses included Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Chris Tucker, former child actor Corey Feldman, Backstreet Boy Nick Carter and younger brother Aaron, CBS correspondent Ed Bradley, CNN's Larry King, Fox broadcaster Rita Cosby, New Age guru Deepak Chopra, psychic Uri Geller, illusionist David Blaine, Las Vegas tycoon Steve Wynn and relatives of the late Marlon Brando.

International

Fatal fire at Tehran mosque caused by kerosene heater

TEHRAN, Iran - A mosque fire that killed 59 people and injured another 350 was blamed on a kerosene heater that was placed too close to a thick curtain that separated male and female worshippers, an Iranian news agency reported Tuesday.

A survivor of Monday's fire said some of the deaths were caused by a stampede of panicked people trying to escape the flames racing through the Arg Mosque, which was more crowded than usual because of a Muslim holiday.

Some worshippers, many of them women, were injured when they jumped from second-floor windows, the witness said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Women pray on the second floor, separated from the men.

Police Chief Brig. Gen. Morteza Talaie said "basic safety rules" were ignored, including the installation of the kerosene heater too close to the curtain, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

IRNA also carried a different account of the cause, however, quoting unidentified witnesses as saying a woman's veil caught fire from the heater and spread to the curtain. Heaters were being used because of unusually cold winter weather in

Tehran. An initial report Monday blamed a faulty electrical outlet, but IRNA reported that theory had been discarded. It also said arson or a bomb was ruled out.

Final agreement reached on Jericho handover

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday he has reached final agreement with Israel on the handover of the West Bank town of Jericho to Palestinian control, including the removal of the main Israeli roadblock in the area, in what would be an important precedent for pullbacks from four more West Bank towns in coming weeks.

However, Israeli military officials said negotiations are continuing. In Israel, hundreds of Jewish settlers and their supporters blocked several main roads during evening rush hour Monday, scuffling with police, burning tires and causing traffic jams, to protest Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer. Police dragged protesters away and detained dozens.

The protest came as Jewish extremists increasingly targeted politicians who support the withdrawal. Several Cabinet ministers have received threatening letters in recent days, alarming law enforcement officials who fear ultranationalists could try to harm Israeli leaders.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told legislators Monday that he has hired private security guards to protect the grave of his wife, Lily, for fear it would be desecrated by opponents to his withdrawal plan.

The handover of five West Bank towns to Palestinian control was agreed on in principle by Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas at a meeting last week. However, a last-minute dispute over the removal of roadblocks and the area to be handed over held up the first Israeli pullback, from Jericho.

Professor conducts study to investigate effectiveness of Distance Education program

Bell looks to assess DE program success

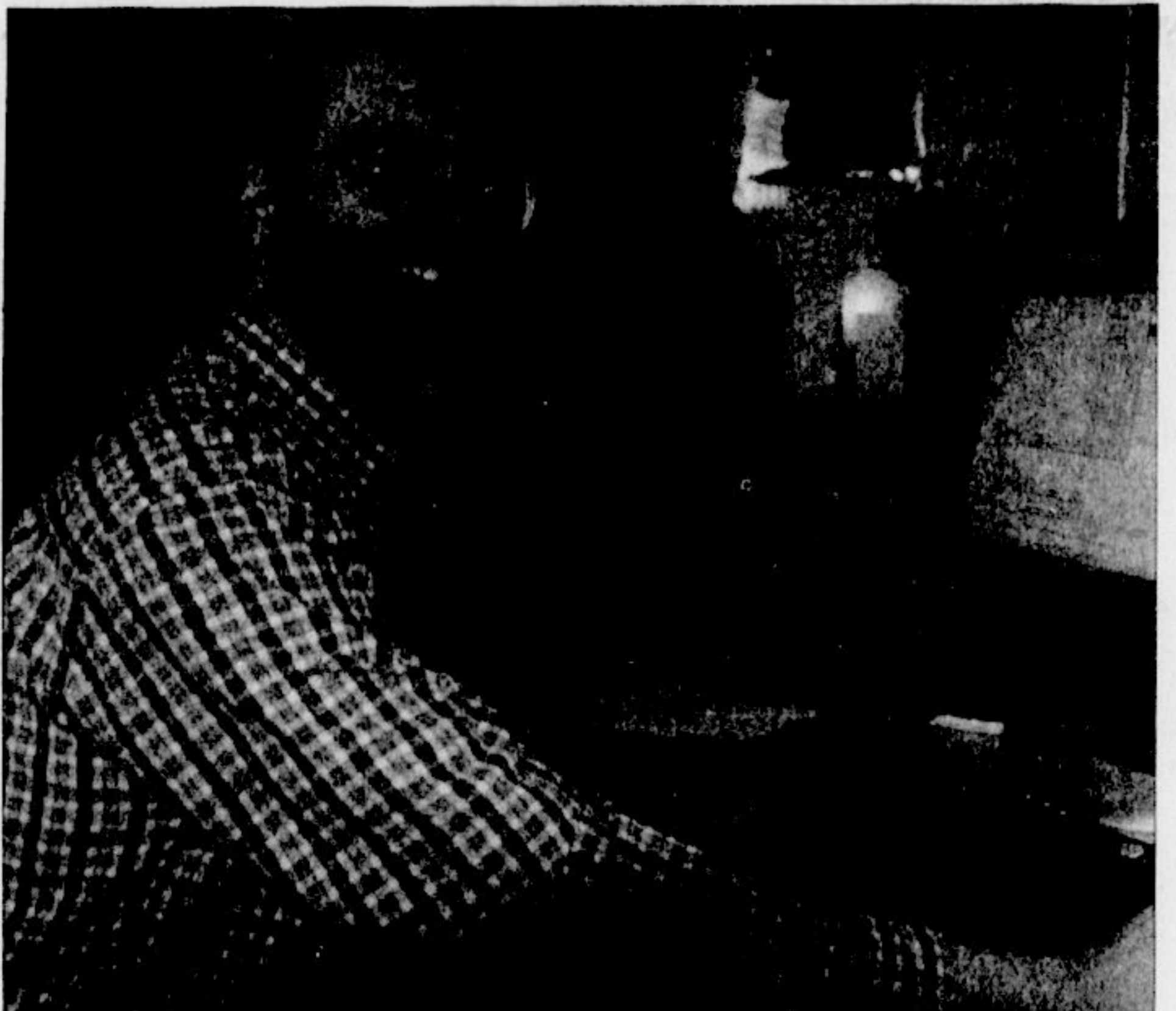
NICK HENNE
NEWS EDITOR

With ECU expanding more each year in Distance Education programs, a professor is in the process of conducting a study to examine the compatibility of students and this new modernized form of learning.

"The intent of the study is to determine whether factors related to self regulated learning and epistemological beliefs, beliefs about knowledge and learning, are associated with learner achievement in online courses," said Paul Bell, associate professor in the department of health information management and conductor of the study.

Bell said this idea was sparked when his program of health services and information management went online about two years ago. He has since noticed some students were successful with the DE courses, while other students were not. The students who did not do as well with online learning actually ranged from adequate to good students based on their grades in the traditional face-to-face classroom environment.

Bell and his colleagues then outlined some of the major differences with the online courses and the face-to-face courses. They concluded there was a vast differ-



Bell is conducting a study to discover the relationship between epistemological beliefs and distance education.

ence between the two, and online learning may not best suit some students. Unlike the traditional classroom setting, online learning is a much more learner-controlled environment and requires students to be solely responsible for their learning. Bell said some students are used to only the classroom-based setting, and having to learn online could potentially be a "recipe for disaster."

The traditional face-to-face learning environment provides regular contact with the instructor in which a student can lean on professors for support and receive reminders about upcoming tests and verbal cues in a

classroom, which communicate to students the main aspects on which to concentrate.

"It's harder to do that in cyberspace," Bell said.

"The whole issue of learner control and learner independence and taking the responsibility for one's learning has been dubbed by the literature as self regulating learning."

The study consists of a questionnaire that has students to self rate and evaluate themselves.

Self-regulated learning and epistemological beliefs have different sub factors that may or may not be related to achieve-

see BELL page A3



Photo by Kyle Fisher

Cerutti discusses diversity in race and cultures with students.

ECU center hosts 'Dialogue on Diversity'

Program creates forum for discussion

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
SENIOR WRITER

ECU's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center hosted an event titled "Dialogue on Diversity" moderating an open discussion on race, culture and ethnicity.

The event drew a crowd of about thirty people to the center to voice their opinions, comments and questions on diversity in a group setting with Chandra Cerutti, lecturer in the department of English.

Opening discussions centered on people's initial reaction to racial differences and how this can lead to racial categorization, where attendees listed skin color and hair texture among other

things as contributing factors.

The group discussed one of the dangers that categorizing by race causes, which is the tendency to stereotype individuals. Examples given during the discussion included the idea that all people of Arabic descent are terrorists or all Asians are of higher intelligence.

Cerutti said a former student came to her and vented her frustration at people assuming that she had musical talent due to her Asian descent.

"It's easy that you can identify or perceive these very complicated traits just by looking at someone," said Cerutti.

The social aspects of race were also brought forth for discussion from the group drawing a variety of different opinions.

One group participant identified herself as a citizen of Aruba who has

see DIALOG page A3

Crime Scene

Feb. 8

11:15 p.m.
Burglary/larceny
Unknown person(s) entered a room in Fletcher Hall and took away Playstation gaming system.

11:30 p.m.
Misdemeanor larceny
Unknown person(s) took away a cellular phone in the Clement Hall elevators.

9:55 p.m.
Damage to motor vehicle
Person(s) damaged the front left outer panel and tire well of a Ford F150 truck parked at Fletcher Music Hall.

Feb. 10

1:30 a.m.
Possessing a fictitious license
Subject possessed a fake ID in a parking lot.

Feb. 12

2:40 a.m.
Indecent exposure
Four males exposed their genitals in the presence of females at the Belk Hall north exterior.

Feb. 13

2:08 a.m.
Drug violations

Subject possessed less than one ounce of marijuana in a parking lot.

2:55 a.m.
Criminal damage to property
Unknown persons threw a rock and broke the window of a 2003 Pontiac Sunfire parked in a lot.

Weekly Crime Tip

Be aware of what is going on around you. If you see anyone suspicious, try to remember what he or she looks like. Remembering the type of clothing, piercings, facial hair and tattoos can help identify a suspect, but do not put yourself into harm's way while trying to identify someone.

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March 1 deadline for Fall 2005 term. Information at http://www.ecu.edu/aa/unc_washington

Tuition from page A1

increase in faculty salary and benefits. There is the problem," Wilson said.

He said the focus needs to be on state appropriations to receive the needed funding.

The governor and the general assembly have been supportive of the universities during tough financial times. Universities must recognize the governor and general assembly need to balance all of the needs of the state.

"They've done a great job in doing all they can do, but the problem still exists," Wilson said.

In addition to the tuition increases, the general assembly has approved salary increases for all state employees, which

would therefore include public university faculty.

As far as tuition rates for in-state students in public institutions, North Carolina remains in the lower half of public institutions nationwide.

"Even with the tuition increases that have been approved in North Carolina over the past five years, higher education in North Carolina is a bargain when compared to the nation," Wilson said.

Wilson said this bargain does not mean it's not tough for many students to meet that cost, but when you compare the quality and costs of our public higher education system with that of

many other states' higher education systems, North Carolina is still a bargain.

The number of applications for admission to ECU shows a supply and demand system. Every campus gets far more applications for admission than they can accommodate.

"That suggests we have something good going on here in North Carolina," Wilson said.

"If it were too expensive or poor quality, I don't think we would have that many students applying."

While the tuition increase proposals have been decided on by the BOG, it still has to go through the general assembly,

which would be able to endorse tuition increases.

Students showed nothing but positive reactions to this decision.

"I don't think ECU needs to raise tuition ... In terms of what I have heard from my professors ... they are satisfied with their salaries," said April Faison, freshman dance major.

Kelly Woody, freshman apparel merchandising major, said she was pleased with the decision, but she pays out-of-state tuition so she is still waiting on the later decision by the Board of Governors.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Bell from page A2

ment. Another purpose of the study is to determine which sub factors are related to success in online learning.

Bell is going to take the results from the study and see if they correlate with the online courses they are taking this semester. Bell thinks those who rate high in certain dimensions of self regulated learning and epistemological beliefs of knowledge and learning will have higher final grades.

If these two factors have an association with achievement in online learning, then we should assess them before a student is placed in an online learning environment.

"It may be that online learning is not appropriate for their learning because they are not used to taking responsibility for their own learning," Bell said.

According to Bell, the study is meant to measure the students' "degree of self-regulation

in learning and their beliefs about knowledge and learning." Previous research indicated that students with more sophisticated notions about learning had higher rates of success than other learners.

Self-regulated learning involved motivation, time and place study resource management and how confident a person is in their ability to learn.

Knowing how individual learner characteristics, such as

self-regulated learning and epistemological beliefs are related to success in learning online can help in the instructional design of online courses. Internet based courses can include elements that help foster the development of individual self-regulated learning and facilitate sophisticated beliefs about knowledge and learning.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Dialog from page A2

been taken back by the emphasis on race in the United States since coming to ECU. She has found the subject on her mind increasing since her arrival in America.

Other participants talked about the expression "melting pot" in relation to American society and how concepts such as that can lead individuals to assimilate and forget

their heritage and culture.

The dialogues closed with a discussion on the historical emphasis of minority highlighting in school curriculums.

"Dialogue on Diversity" events began around two years ago and are held about once a month.

"The benefit is to provide a forum where students, faculty and staff can come in to have a

dialogue ... to share," said Lathan Turner, director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Toya Jacobs, assistant director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, said these open dialogues benefit ECU because of their civilized and welcoming nature.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

TKE from page A1

reasons."

The brothers of TKE and the alumni who created this project are throwing a house warming party for the city council and those who were involved once the house has been decorated and fully moved in to.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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Attention Graduates!
Don't Miss the GRADUATION EXPO!

You're invited to a special Graduation Expo featuring sales representatives and displays from a variety of vendors and campus departments. This is also the first opportunity for May grads to pick up caps & gowns. Plus, you'll find other important information about commencement, student loan repayment, alumni benefits, Pirate Club, and more! All May graduates are encouraged to attend, visit the information tables, register for some great door prizes, and pick up a FREE GIFT*. And, be sure to sign the "Class of 2005" banner to be used at future alumni events!

Tuesday, February 22 & Wednesday, February 23:
 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 24: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rear area of The Wright Place Dining Spot - Wright Building

*FREE GIFT for May graduates while supplies last, compliments of Dowdy Student Store! Also note: some information tables will not be available during evening hours.

This is the perfect time to meet with an authorized ECU ring representative to order your class ring. The official university commencement announcements are available at ECU-Dowdy Student Store now and during the Graduation Expo. You may also order personalized invitations, thank you notes, diploma frames, and other graduation items through the ECU-Dowdy Student Store, located in the Wright Building.

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 tec

Our View

CDC encourages college students to vaccinate for meningitis

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued an official government advisory recommending college students be vaccinated for meningitis.

Health officials have recommended the shot for college students since the late 1990s, but it wasn't until last week that the CDC officially endorsed it.

Meningitis, or meningococcal disease, is a potentially life-threatening disease caused by bacteria infecting the membranes around the spinal cord and brain.

It is important for college students to receive a meningitis vaccine because people in our age group are six times as likely to contract the disease than others. This is especially true for students living in the dorms, because meningitis is spread through contact in kissing, sharing kitchen utensils, sneezing and other habits engaged in by those living in such close quarters.

Meningitis kills approximately 300 Americans per year, and while this may not seem like an immediate danger, it is important to protect yourself from this disease. Many people who have meningitis are initially misdiagnosed because the symptoms are similar to the flu (i.e. fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea and sleepiness).

The CDC's decision was largely pushed by the development of a new meningitis vaccine called Menactra, made by Sanofi Pasteur. The new vaccine lasts for eight years, versus the old one which lasted for only 3 - 5 years. Also, the old vaccine didn't prevent people from being carriers of the disease.

TEC encourages students to vaccinate themselves from the disease. The new vaccine is expected to cost around \$100, but it is a small price to pay when considering your future.

For more information on the CDC's decision or more information on meningitis, visit the Web sites below:

- cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/
- nmaus.org

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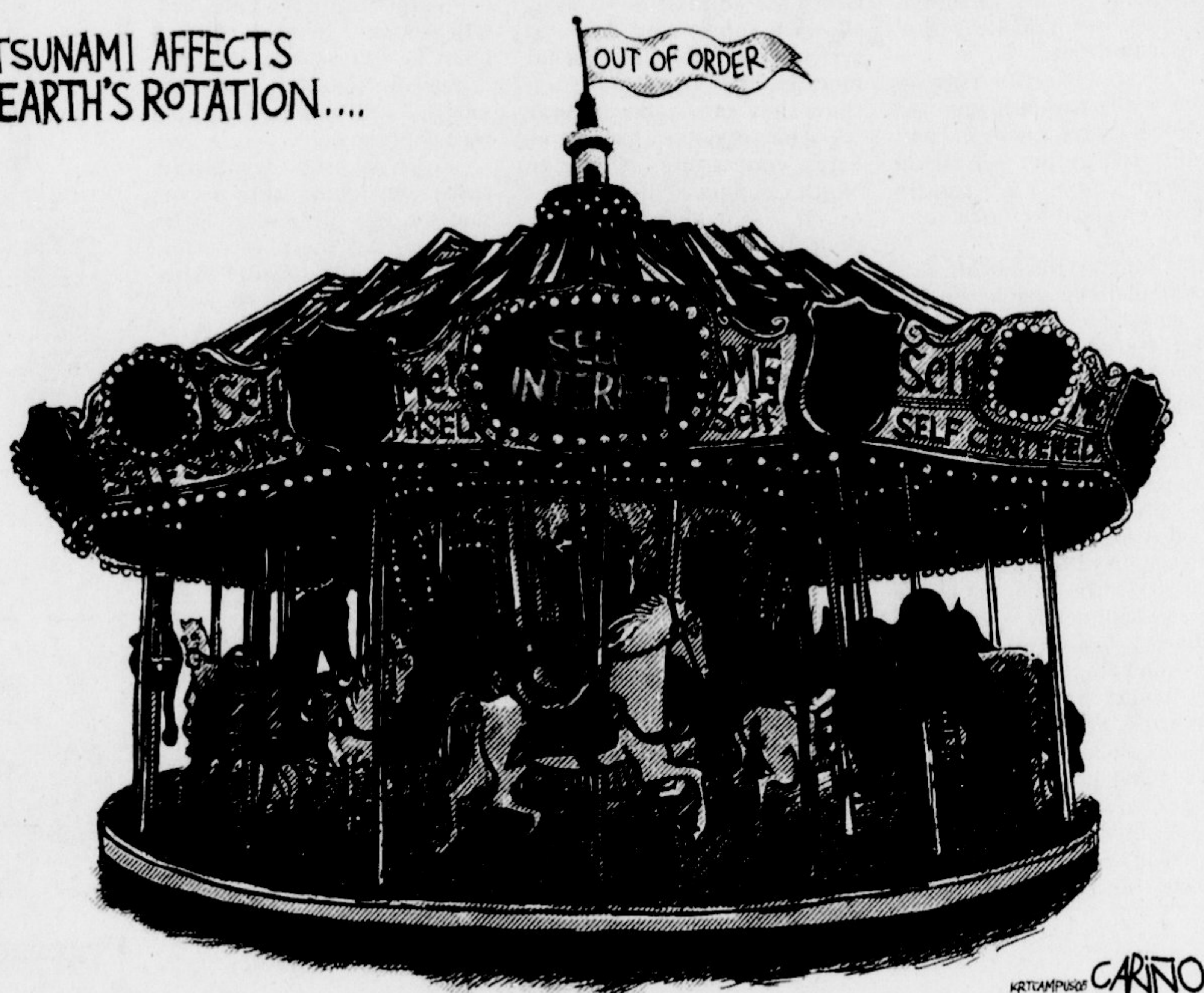
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TSUNAMI AFFECTS EARTH'S ROTATION....



In My Opinion

Coach Herrion deserves another year

Murmurs beginning to circulate among students

JOHN BREAM
SENIOR WRITER

The athletics programs at ECU are undergoing a transformation under new Athletic Director Terry Holland. Just a few months ago, head football coach John Thompson was released because of a failure to return the Pirates to their traditional status as a winning program in addition to dissent among Pirate Club members who support ECU's athletic teams. Murmurs have started circulating about the status of men's basketball Head Coach Bill Herrion's job at the end of the season. It seems my previous editorial on Thompson was a bit reactionary and pre-mature, but my thoughts on Herrion are much more organized and accurate. ECU needs to stick by Herrion's side.

I think Herrion's profile speaks for itself, although his record as the head coach of ECU is less than stellar. Herrion began his career at Drexel University who plays in the Northern Atlantic Conference. Herrion was named Coach of the Year in the conference four times in his eight seasons and guided the Drexel Dragons to a mark of 121-32, three NCAA tournament appearances, a tournament win and one berth in the NIT. Herrion then came to ECU, a struggling program in the Colonial conference, and oversaw it as it transitioned to primetime in Conference USA.

Since arriving at ECU, Herrion has a record of 68-92, far from what Herrion is accustomed. However, ECU has shown steady progress, although one may argue this year's young Pirate squad has struggled at times. Herrion guided the Pirates to their first ever win over a top 10 team beating Marquette when the Golden Eagles were ranked number nine. Herrion has also guided the Pirates to two appearances in the C-USA tournament in the last three years.

ECU can also boast wins over Louisville and UNC-Charlotte and over perennial NCAA tournament teams such as Pepperdine and Oregon State. This year has been somewhat tough for the Pirates because they played an insanely difficult out-of-conference schedule. ECU is currently playing the 33rd toughest schedule in the nation and is ranked in the top half of the RPI at 153. The Pirates have only played two teams in D-1 with losing records. But, in case the 7-13 mark and the loss to Gardner-Webb are still aching in the back of your mind, evidence that the Pirates have improved abound everywhere.

I'll admit it. After his first two seasons, I was a Corey Rouse skeptic. I completely regret such a sentiment. Rouse has matured exponentially between his sophomore and junior seasons. This season, he is leading C-USA in rebounding and nearly averages a double-double per game - for most of the season he has been one of only six men in the nation averaging a double-double per game. Moussa Badianne has continued to elevate his game every year. Badianne arrived at ECU practically a novice to basketball (compared to other players in the NCAA), but has honed his uncanny ability to block shots - eclipsing the C-USA record last week - and steadily improved his offense.

The young players are starting to come around as well. Japhet McNeil has overcome the frustration of his freshman year (might I add, asking any freshman to handle the ball in C-USA is an insurmountable task) and is second in C-USA in steals. Josh King and Tom Hammonds have each contributed in major ways in ECU's wins over St. Louis and UNC-Charlotte. Jonathan Hart is loaded with athletic ability and although his playing time has been limited, has hit a couple of jumpers at clutch times this season. Taylor Gagnon has seen increased playing time and now leads the Pirates in three-point percentage at 35 percent. Marvin Kilgore played some solid

games, especially earlier in the season, and Mike Castro has become a force to be reckoned with on the boards. And as always, Mike Cook just seems to find ways to score and is ranked ninth in points-per-game in C-USA. Herrion has assembled a nucleus of young talent around which he can build a solid team. Add in forwards Charles Bronson and a transfer from Wake Forest, who will begin play next year, and the front court looks up as well. If the maturation process continues next season as it has this past season, ECU's young players will be a force for the next three years.

But, what speaks volumes about Herrion is his demeanor on the bench. It is such a pleasure to watch him teach his kids and correct them when they come off the court. Herrion is always standing and actively involved in the game - which is evidenced by the tremendous amount of sweat on his shirts. Herrion has an unparalleled passion for the game of basketball, and it shows each time his team steps on the court. He instills his love for the game in the Pirates, which makes them a dangerous team at any time - if you don't believe me - ask Bobby Lutz or Tom Crean and I'm sure they'll tell you.

So, in advance, coach Holland, I think Herrion needs a few more years, and he has earned that right. Losing under Herrion doesn't reflect nearly as bad on him as it does this university because Herrion has established his ability to win. Even with a losing record, he has boosted attendance at home games by more than 1,000 people per year. A public statement of his job assurance would be welcomed and Pirate Nation would be thankful. After all, Herrion has made Billville a wonderful place to live during basketball season and after the C-USA tournament (or NCAA tournament) we will all look forward to returning home next season.

In the midst of all of this athletics turmoil, at least students can be assured Randy Mazey's job is safe.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
This is concerning the Pirate Rant section from Feb. 1. I'm a big fan and get a good laugh from the rants but one rant that disturbed me was "I bled from my Metallica Tattoos." I'm not sure what this person was implying, but it seemed a bit psycho. I'm also a Metallica fan and understand fan loyalty, but cutting yourself is unsanitary and down right scary. I understand the freedom of speech and your job of posting the rants, but this individual needs professional help, and I personally don't think they need any motivation to continue this self-inflicted pain. Recent reports imply that it is reaching "epidemic proportions," particularly among young people. Furthermore, research suggests that it is a frequent companion to eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder and dissociative disorders. I'm not saying this die hard fan shows any of these traits, yet it concerns me that a fellow student would openly express these actions. It almost seems like a cry for help. I just felt that I should express my concern.
Shane Benfield
Senior, construction management

Dear Editor,
[This letter is in response to Peter Kalajian's Feb. 10 opinion piece, "Evolutionary theory takes a beating."]
I wholeheartedly agree that we need to teach science in public schools, but I do not agree that we should ignore religious topics within our public disciplines. This country was founded upon religious freedoms, and the impact of religion - especially Christianity should not be ignored. I find that we do our students a dis-service when we minimize the influence of Catholic and Protestant doctrine upon the forefathers of our nation. Whether you are African American, Arabic, Jewish or Irish, religion has been the cornerstone of not only these nationalities but many more. Our money, our pledge of allegiance and our judicial systems are reflections of our nation's religious upbringing.
Certainly, the question can be raised in how to approach religious themes, but it is impossible to ignore that even in 2005, our nation is still perhaps one of the largest religious superstructures in the world. To eliminate the teaching of religion in public schools is damaging to our future generations. The aim of education should

be to assist our students in exploring the past, considering the present, and preparing them for the future. If we constantly eliminate "touchy" subjects such as religion, or if we poorly expound upon other subjects such as the heritage of Native Americans and the fact what Christopher Columbus discovered was already discovered, we leave very little for our children to consider, and even less tools for them to use in the future. As an unabashed Christian to an unabashed Darwinist, I think it would only be fair to expose our children to both science and religion. After all, religion led Darwin to his studies at Cambridge, Christ College and later to his studies in natural science. If you really want to consider the state of America - both its past, present and future - you must take into consideration religion. Disregarding religion's influence on our nation is synonymous to disregarding the 200 and some odd years of slavery's influence on our nation. Both are gross understatements, and it would be unwise to continue this charade in public, private or religious institutions of education.
Danielle Melvin
ECU English lecturer

Pirate Rant

Is it just me, or does it look like the jungle is no more? It seems like a movement around this campus to do away with tailgating and anything related. I tell you what - if the jungle is no more and tailgating is no more, this college will not get a dime of mine when I graduate. Fellow ECU fans, voice your opinion about the jungle.

To the people who wear sweat bands to class: Man, I give it up to you guys working so hard in class that you work up a feverish sweat. Watching you mentally give your all until the sweat just pours out is amazing. Oh yeah, make sure you take it off before you go the gym so it doesn't get messed up, dorks.

Look guys, if you want to have a better sports program in general, you have to support it. The Big East seems to be looking at ECU very closely. Can you get your rear end to the games, on time, and cheer your heart out like a true Pirate? Also, leave that ugly, UNC sweatshirt at home - you are a Pirate, act like it.

Professors of ECU: Here is an idea - if you are sick, how about sending out this little thing called an e-mail instead of making us come to class and waste two hours of our life watching videos with your grad assistant?

Dear annoying student: If we have a guess speaker in our class it is not the time for you to ask them a million questions about your own personal health issues. If you need personal advice, go to the Student Health Center and stop wasting our time.

Props to Taylor Gagnon - he is the only Pirate that makes a point to cover his heart during the National Anthem and keep his eyes on the flag.

Uh, where did the jungle go? They cut down all the trees and filled it with dirt. That's not cool.

You know, if you have a problem telling other people what your GPA is, maybe it's something that needs to be worked on. Open a book before you open your mouth.

In case no one has noticed, everyone has a certain bias and that includes your professors. If you aren't smart enough to wade through a professor's bias and see the objective lesson they are really trying to teach, I don't think you belong in college.

When did my roommate's boyfriend's Subaru and her Trans Am become so important, they can park their cars in the yard like they have show cars?

The next time you dial the wrong number and call my phone, don't get mad at me because I'm not your boyfriend. You're the one who doesn't know how to work the phone.

If you are afraid of dogs, and I make an effort to get off the sidewalk, and pull them into me, don't say "I'll sue" sarcastically as you walk by. It makes me wish they would bite you. Don't be so ignorant. If my dogs bit people I wouldn't walk them through campus.

So, people think our president is dumb, eh? Well that's funny considering he scored 20 points higher on the IQ test than precious John Kerry did. People, he's our president. You don't have to like him, but jeez, respect the position he holds.

Here's hoping the Pirates can learn to play on the road. The team has tons of talent but won't go to the NCAA (or NIT) for that matter, unless they start to win a few on the road.

Has anybody else noticed that the song from the iPod shuffle commercial is about masturbation?

When did it become normal conversation to ask a girl if her breasts are real? And yes, they are real.

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to voice their opinions. Submissions can be submitted anonymously online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mailed to editor@theeastcarolinian.com. The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.

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Mendenhall Movies:

Birth

Wednesday: 7 p.m.
Thursday: 9:30 p.m.
Friday: 7 p.m. and Midnight
Saturday: 9:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7 p.m.

The Incredibles

Wednesday: 9:30 p.m.
Thursday: 7 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 p.m.
Saturday: 7 p.m. and Midnight
Sunday: 7 p.m.

Top 5's:

Top 5 Movies:

1. Boogeyman
2. The Wedding Date
3. Are We There Yet?
4. Hide and Seek
5. Million Dollar Baby

Top 5 DVD's

1. AVP: Alien vs. Predator
2. Friday Night Lights
3. The Forgotten
4. Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
5. Cellular

Top 5 TV Shows

1. "Super Bowl XXXIX"
2. "American Idol-Tues"
3. "American Idol-Wed"
4. "Desperate Housewives"
5. "CSI"

Top 5 CD's

1. The Game
2. Green Day
3. Eminem
4. Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz
5. John Legend

Top 5 Books

1. The Broker
2. The Da Vinci Code
3. The Five People You Meet in Heaven
4. State of Fear
5. Chainfire

Horoscopes:

Aries: Your curiosity will soon be piqued by an author recently discovered. Study well - you'll have a chance to use this information soon.

Taurus: Authority figures are likely to be in a generous mood and you know just what they need. That's the clue. Provide it.

Gemini: Don't let a rejection or two slow you down. Being respected is actually better in the long run than being liked. Stand up for what's right.

Cancer: For the next several weeks, you'll be obsessed with dreams of far distant places. For the next two days, you'll be stuck here, cleaning up old messes.

Leo: For the next few weeks, you'll become more interested in how you save your money. This is good, since you've been paying more attention to other things for a while.

Virgo: Learning to delegate is a skill you'll get to practice now. This will make it possible for you to do much more.

Libra: You're very smart and very good at getting the message out. Move up a notch in effectiveness by listening carefully now.

Scorpio: Sort through your bills and the other paperwork that's been stacking up. You'll want to know how much you can spend on your romantic outing this weekend.

Sagittarius: Conditions are improving, and so are communications. Compromise will be required, however. Set priorities.

Capricorn: Your workload increases for the next few days. For heaven's sake, don't complain. You've already thought of at least one very good use for the money.

Aquarius: You've worked hard, but don't despair. Some things are about to get easier. Rearrange your schedule to make more free time with the people you love.

Pisces: Nobody really understands how the learning process works, but in the next few weeks your knowledge increases substantially. Take care.

Artists rock the Grammy's

Ray Charles, Alicia Keys among many receiving trophies

KYLE BILLINGS
STAFF WRITER

The 47th annual Grammy Awards aired Sunday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. These much-anticipated awards stood up to their long-standing tradition of elegance and surprise.

Genius loves company, and Ray Charles leaves with the accompaniment of six Grammy's, including the award for Best Album. The sentimental push and a night seemingly dedicated to the fallen artist made the awards a fitting memorial.

Alicia Keys was another big winner of the night, garnering four trophies of her own. Keys' songs, "If I Aint Got You," "My Boo" and "You Don't Know My Name," won awards for Female R&B, R&B duo/group and R&B song respectively. Keys, who looked absolutely stunning in her white dress, also accepted the

coveted Best R&B Award with her album *The Diary of Alicia Keys*.

The man nominated for the most Grammy's, Kanye West, took home three. Obviously moved in his acceptance speech, West reflected on his crippling accident that nearly took his life, advising others to live for each day. He added, "people were asking me what I would do if I didn't win," he paused, then continued as he hoisted his newly won hardware, "I guess we'll never know." West won the Grammy for Best Rap album with his debut *The College Dropout*, conspicuously beating out Jay-Z's *The Black Album*.

After a lifetime of musical achievement, Brian Wilson finally took home the first Grammy of his career. The lead singer/songwriter of The Beach Boys won the award for his single "Mrs. O'Leary's Cow" in the best rock instrumental performance category. He is cited as saying to *USA Today*, "I waited 42 years for this Grammy ... it represents a triumph and an achievement in music that I feel I deserve and I'm very glad that I won."

Already, former President Bill Clinton has eclipsed Brian Wilson in these awards, winning his second Grammy for Spoken Word Album for his book *My Life*.

Joining Brian Wilson as a first time Grammy winner was Rod Stewart, who was presented with the trophy in the traditional pop album for his album *Stardust* ... *The Great American Songbook Volume III*.

Another oldie but goodie gave an acceptance speech Grammy night, in the person of Loretta Lynn. Lynn was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1981. Sissy Spacek won an Oscar for her portrayal of Loretta Lynn in 1981. At the ripe age of 69, Lynn, however, continues to shock and awe, winning two awards for Country Album and for her work with Jack White of the band The White Stripes on the song "Portland, Oregon" in the country vocal collaboration category.

Recognizing the achievements of musicians nationwide, the Grammy's would not be such without recognizing musical

see GRAMMY page A6



Fall head over heels for 'Love Letters' play

An ECU extension of love through writings

AMANDA WINAR
FEATURES WRITER

William A. Henry III said, "Few plays have been tinier, more beautiful than this tender sketch of the bond between two people who cannot live with, or without, each other."

February is the month of love, and ECU has provided its students, faculty and the Greenville community with an extension of the loving spirit with the upcoming play, *Love Letters*. A play by renowned dramatist A.R. Gurney, *Love Letters* will be performed Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium as part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

Love Letters tracks the lives of

two lifelong friends through 50 years of correspondence of first loves, lost loves and the undeniable bond of friendship.

"The show has a lot to offer Greenville. I have read the A.R. Gurney play and thoroughly enjoyed it. The characters, Melissa and Andy, are so candid in their correspondence, and the structure of the play is unique in that the audience begins caring for the characters despite the absence of anything actually occurring on stage," said JoEllen Birch from the Cultural Outreach Program.

The play stars Academy Award-winning actress Eva Marie Saint and husband, acclaimed film, television and theatre producer/director, Jeffrey Hayden.

Saint has starred in films like Alfred Hitchcock's *On the Waterfront* with Marlon Brando, *North by Northwest* with Cary Grant and *Our Town* with Paul Newman. In

1990, she won an Emmy for her performance in the NBC miniseries "People Like Us."

"The play's success is largely dependent on the talent and chemistry between the actors and actresses. In *Love Letters*, the only two characters are played by a couple who have been married for over 50 years" Birch said.

Saint's co-star and husband began his media career working for NBC after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill. Since then, he has helped direct live television dramas through "The Philco Television Playhouse," taping stars like James Dean, Paul Newman and Walter Matthau.

Hayden has worked on shows including "Leave it to Beaver" and "The Andy Griffith Show." His most recent achievement was writing, producing and directing the award-winning documentary

see LETTERS page A7



Contributed photo

Jeffrey Hayden and Eva Marie Saint, creators of *Love Letters*.

Children's author visits local Barnes and Noble

New children's book takes place in the Outer Banks

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

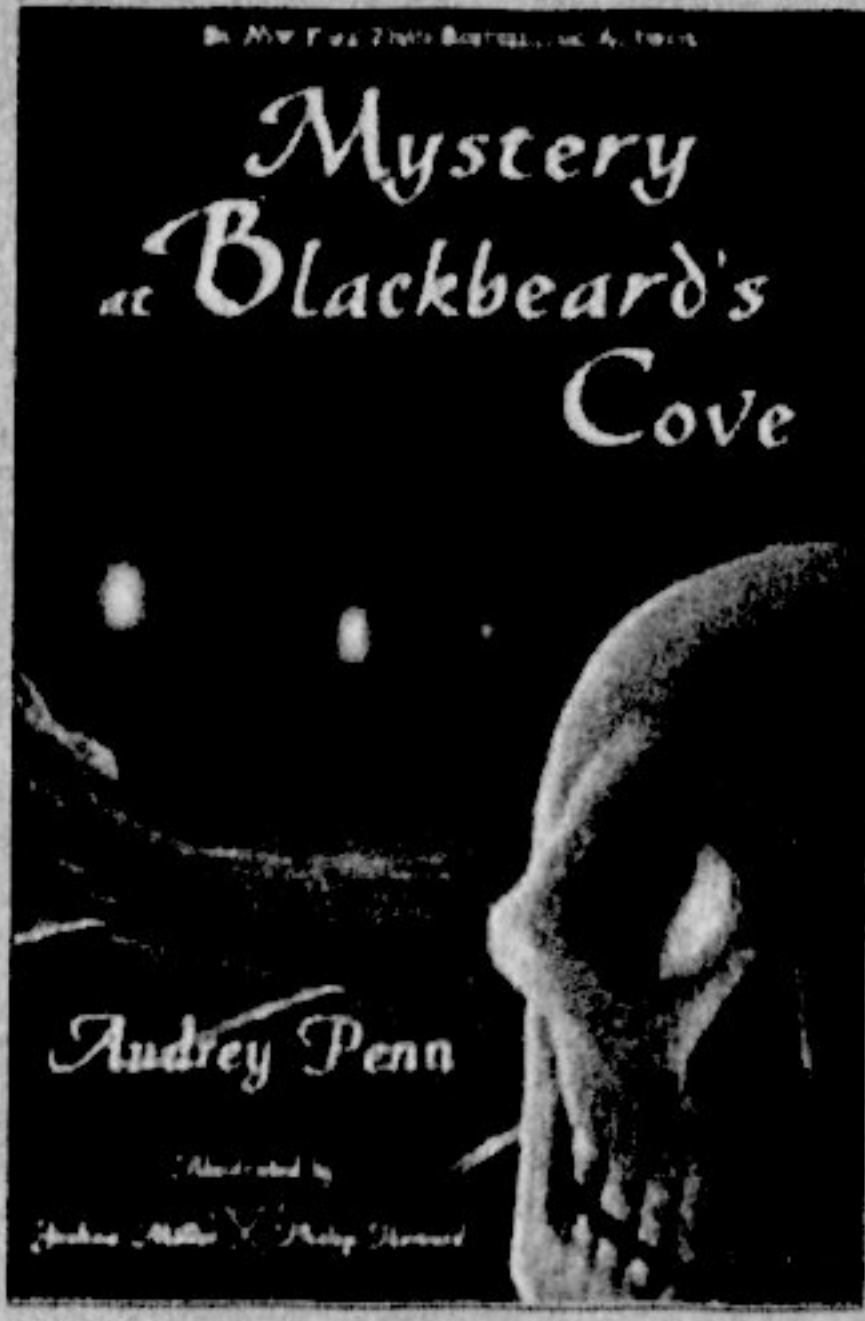
Children's author Audrey Penn will be in Greenville Saturday, Feb. 19 at 5 p.m., signing copies of her new book *Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove*.

Penn was the Ed Press Distinguished Award Winner for her book *The Kissing Hand*. She is also the author of its sequel *A Pocket Full of Kisses* and a collection of other children's books including *Sassafras, Feathers and Fur, A.D.D. Not B.A.D. and The Whistling Tree*.

Her latest book is *Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove*, and it's her first book written in chapter format. The story takes place in our very own Ocracoke Island. It follows the foursome of Billy, Daniel, Stephanie and Mark, all of whom are friends with the eccentric old Mrs. McNemish. Her dying wish is to be buried at sea with her ancestor, who happens to be Blackbeard. Her island friends are determined to make sure this happens. They break into the local church in an attempt to steal her body so they can dump it off into the sea. The attempts to do this only trigger a series of hilarious mishaps.

Penn's novel contains illustrations from Joshua Miller and Phillip Howard, who is a direct descendant of William Howard, who was Blackbeard's quartermaster. The novel is quite lengthy for a children's book, coming in just shy of 350 pages. According to amazon.com, it is suggested for children ages 9 - 12. Given the subject matter of the story, some students at ECU might find this book rather amusing as well.

"Young readers love books with mystery, adventure and characters they can relate to,"



NC history depicted by Penn.

said Arwen Parris, Community Relations Manager for the local Barnes and Noble store.

"*Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove* has those elements."

Penn has spent more than 30 years visiting Ocracoke Island getting to know the locals better. This has helped her get to know how people on that island would react to specific situations. This is a sign of a good author. She has done the research well enough so she knows exactly how the people in this area would do what we as the audience would like them to do in certain situations. It's good to see there is at least one author in the world still doing these things.

The signing takes place this Saturday at the local Barnes and Noble store located in the same shopping center as Target and Circuit City. You can check out this new novel and get it signed by Penn. It's worth checking out, if only to meet this award winning author.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Who wants to be Ron Jeremy?

Or better yet, who doesn't?

GARY MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

Although it wasn't a huge success with movie audiences, film critics have always held a special place in their hearts for 1999's *Being John Malkovich*. It's the story of a young filing clerk, played by John Cusack, who discovers a hidden tunnel in his office building, which allows him to enter the mind and see through the eyes of actor John Malkovich.

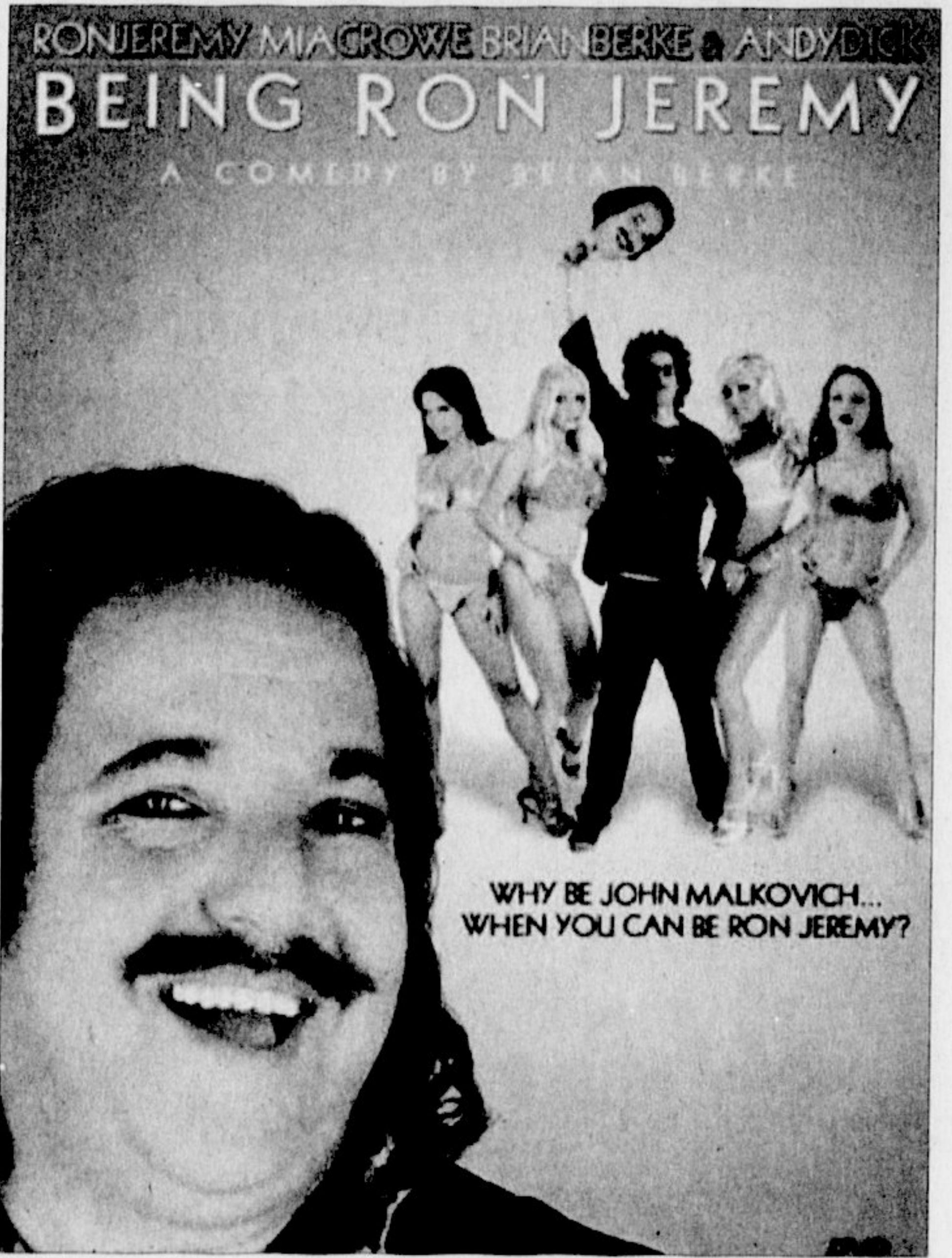
The film received glowing reviews from leading film critics across America and earned three Academy Award nominations, but there was one glaring problem with the story. When transported into the actor's body, 'being' John Malkovich usually consisted of reading the newspaper, taking a shower and other normal day-to-day activities. Certainly somebody left the theater after seeing the film with an obvious question - who wants to be John Malkovich?

That's exactly what comedian Brian Berke was thinking. If such a portal did exist, Berke wouldn't want to waste his time inside the mind of some offbeat actor doing chores. Instead, Berke envisioned jumping into the mind of somebody a little more exciting - somebody who lives the life most people would kill for.

"The first thing I thought when John Malkovich came out was who better to do that [with] than Ron Jeremy," said Berke in a press release discussing where his vision came from.

Ron Jeremy is a hero to millions of young men around the globe. Hairy and overweight, he's an average guy ... who's had sex with 4,000 women. The rarest of commodities in show business, a male porno superstar, Jeremy has transcended his genre and has become a household name.

Believe it or not, Jeremy began his career with hopes of becoming a mainstream actor and performed in off-Broadway theater. He soon discovered that making a living doing theater was virtually impossible and decided he would try to break



The front of the DVD cover gives incredible movie insight.

into mainstream films through porn. Since starting in the industry in 1978, Jeremy has appeared in more than 1,750 adult films including leading roles in *Kneel Before Me*, *Terms of Endowment* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, in which he played The Wolf.

In light of his taboo profession, Jeremy saw many doors in the mainstream entertainment business slam in his face. Over time though, some doors would begin to open, leading Jeremy to win roles in films like *Detroit Rock City* and *Men in Black*. Recently, he's been in more demand than ever, performing stand-up comedy to packed houses across the country and appearing in a handful of television shows including "The Surreal Life."

In *Being Ron Jeremy*, Berke directs and also stars as Brian Pickles, a down-and-out comedian who's hopelessly in love with an adult video store clerk. One day, he stumbles upon a portal which transports him into the mind of Ron Jeremy. At

first, being in control of someone with an amazing life like Jeremy's is fantastic, but unfortunately, Brian doesn't have the porn legend's stamina and as a result, Jeremy's porn career suffers. It's up to Jeremy to find out what is happening to him before his stellar career is brought to a screeching halt.

Like John Malkovich in *Being John Malkovich*, Jeremy parodies himself by playing on the public's misconceptions about his true character and does surprisingly good work in the starring role.

"He is really good in the role," Berke said.

"He does a good job of poking fun at himself. He was really funny ... always joking around."

The film also stars comic Andy Dick, who plays Jeremy's porn acting coach. Dick and Jeremy, real-life friends, share some of the film's funniest scenes together and rise above the mate-

see JEREMY page A7

Maroon 5 headlines fifth tour

Honda Civic 2005 Tour

CARMIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

It seems the wildly popular Maroon 5 just keeps climbing the ultra-swank ladder to fame. These boys will be kicking off the fifth annual Honda Civic tour March 11 at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles. With more than 35 stops nationwide, they will be playing bigger venues and more concert dates than ever before. For fans, this will mark the only opportunity to see Maroon 5 on tour this year.

You'd think that being asked to headline a tour that in years prior featured such names as Everclear, Incubus, Good Charlotte, New Found Glory and Dashboard Confessional would be enough, but in fact there's more. The Donnas or The Thrills will be opening up for them, each on various tour dates.

Maroon 5 have received the Best New Artist award at the MTV "Video Music Awards," a Billboard Music Award and two Grammy nominations. These boys were honored by the readers of Rolling Stone, who recently named Maroon 5 as the second best band in the world (after U2) with the number three single of last year, "This Love."



"Best new artist," Maroon 5.

Even with the mega-hit-headliners this group seems to constantly pump out, the impressive opening acts and certainly millions of dollars in profits to boot, the men of Maroon 5 manage to stay grounded.

It has been said these men are not only passionate musicians, but also committed to protecting the environment. As a part of the Honda Civic Tour, Maroon 5 has created a special webpage, maroon5.com/hybrid, to share important information about the planet, providing links to environmental organizations in efforts to encourage their fans to help make a difference.

Not only have these guys set up their own "environmentally friendly" Web site, but they've also made sure to unleash their creativity in choosing special custom features for the Honda Civic hybrid, and the Civic coupe. Both cars will be on tour

with the band and showcased at all their concert venues.

Fans will have the exclusive opportunity to win these customized cars, which should be "music to the ears" of every college student who loves this band. Not only will you have the chance to hear what should be a sold out concert, but also win an environmentally friendly ride that your favorite rock stars personally customized.

Many people seem to be supporting Maroon 5 with their tour efforts.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Honda Civic Tour with Maroon 5," said Ton Peyton, senior manager of the National Advertising for American Honda Motor Co.

"You may have heard Maroon 5 on the radio or seen them on TV, but the Honda Civic Tour is bringing them to you for a spectacular musical event."

If interested, Maroon 5 will perform at the Cricket Arena in Charlotte, NC on March 22. Tickets started selling Saturday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. Tickets are between \$27.50 and \$35. You can find tickets at the Cricket Arena Box Office and all Ticket Master locations. In Charlotte the opening act will be the Donnas, which are set to begin at 7:30 p.m.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Grammy from page A5

performances. John Legend, Mavis Staples and the Blind Boys of Alabama had us soul searching with inspirational gospel, covering The Staples song "I'll Take You There." Immediately following, Kanye West took the reigns to perform "Jesus Walks," the tune that won him Best Rap Song. Also inspirational was the performance by Melissa Etheridge and Joss Stone in a tribute to music legend Janis Joplin. Recently undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer, Melissa Etheridge stormed the stage completely bald yet emboldened and enlivened, whose performance followed a heartfelt standing ovation.

Gossip columnists had further fodder, aside from the attire of the attendees, with Jennifer Lopez and husband Marc Anthony's duet "Escapemos." Their stage was a hotel setting as the two performed a song in his Grammy winning album *Amar Sin Mentiras*.

However, the night is most remembered for the awards and tribute to Ray Charles. With 609 million people watching worldwide, audiences saw Jamie Foxx give a singing tribute to the man he played in the movie *Ray*, and the conclusion of the show with Charles winning the most sought after award, Best Album.

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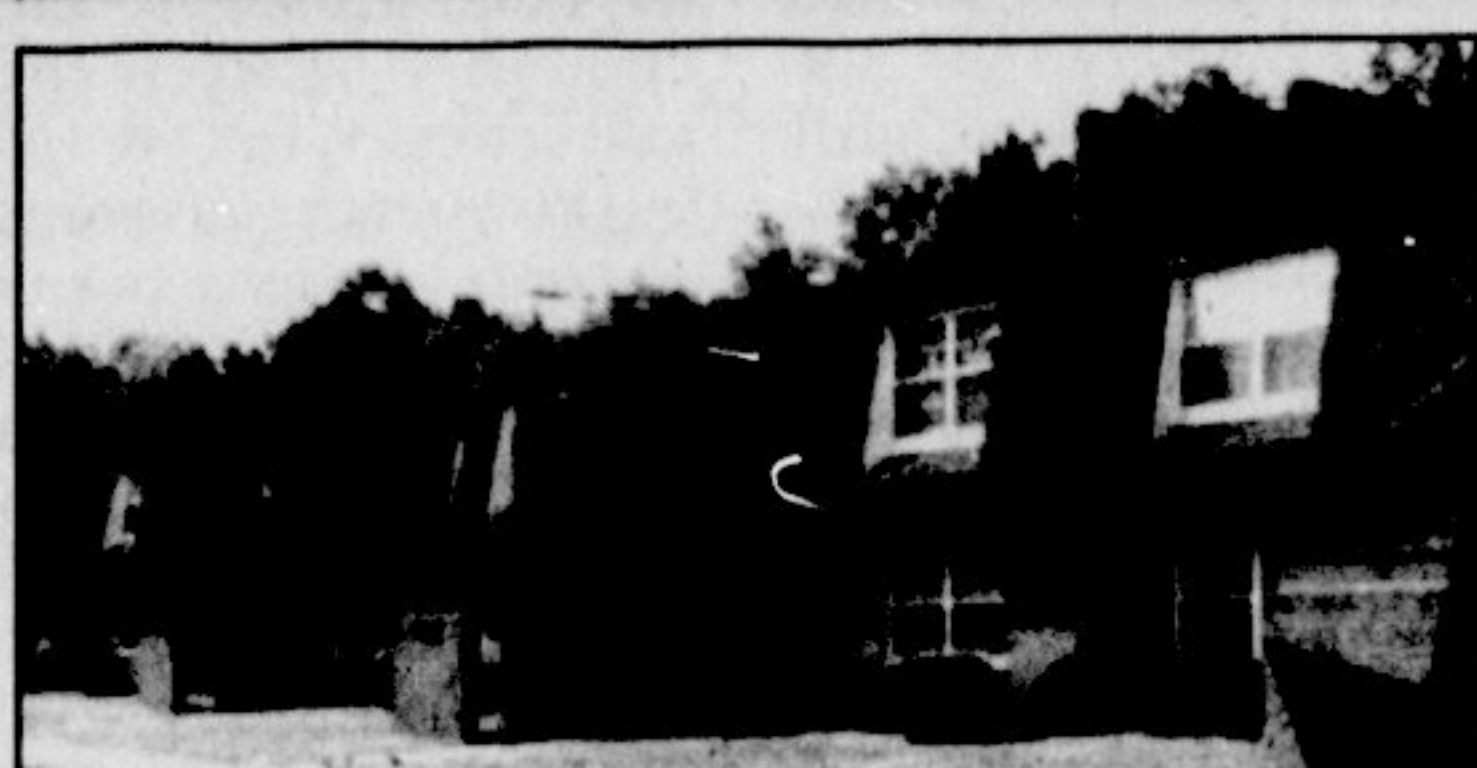
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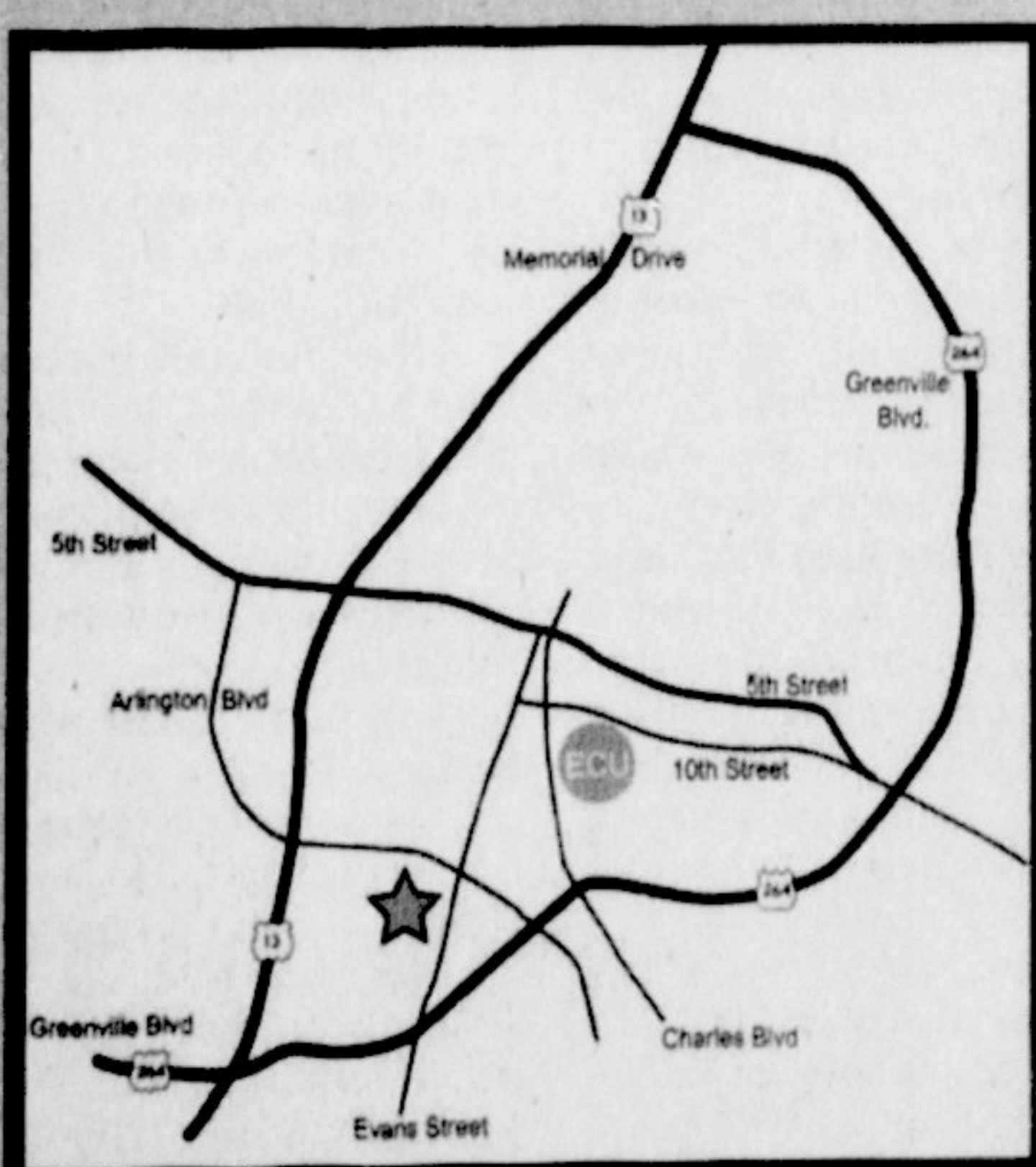
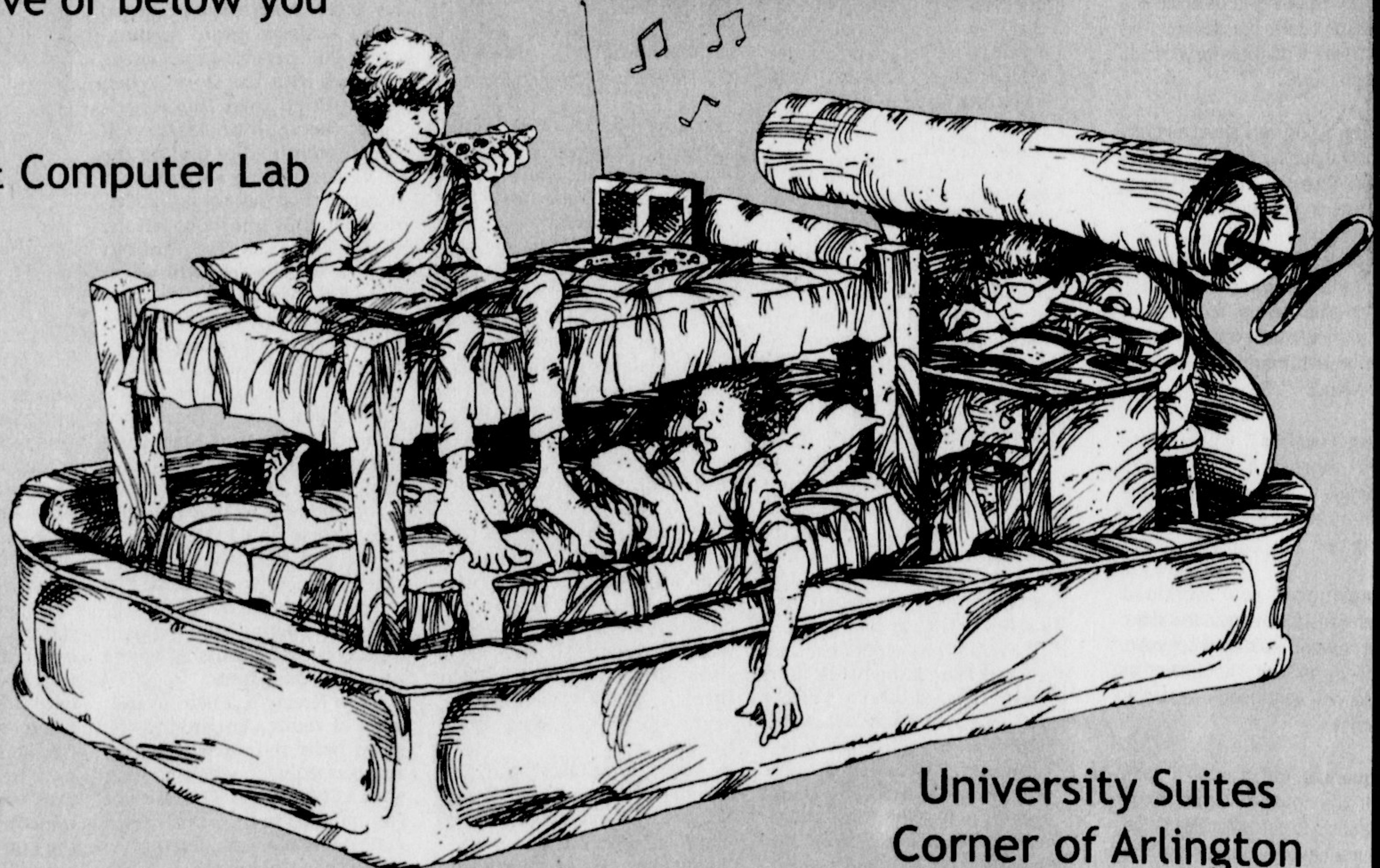
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This week you will receive an e-mail from Chancellor Ballard requesting that you complete the National Survey of Student Engagement.

National Survey of Student Engagement
For more information about the survey, contact the Office of Institutional Planning, Research, and Effectiveness
Phone: 252-328-9492
E-mail: smithk@mail.ecu.edu

This survey seeks information about your educational experiences at ECU and about the types of interactions you have had with faculty, staff, and fellow students.

Your participation is important because the information we receive helps us identify ways to improve the ECU experience. We will also be able to see how ECU students' experiences compare to those of students at other universities.

Letters from page A5

"Primary Colors: The Story of Corita" and "Children in American Schools" with Bill Moyers, both for the PBS network.

Love Letters is not a newly produced play as Hayden noted in a recent interview.

"We've done *Love Letters* for several years in many theaters," said Hayden.

"We're always working on it. We rehearse and find new things in it all the time. I can't tell you how many performances we've done ... but several times a year for about eight years. Plenty."

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS, or at the office located in Mendenhall. Advance individual tickets are \$25 for the public, \$23 for ECU Faculty/Staff, \$13 for youth and \$10 for ECU students. All tickets purchased at the door will be \$25. Additional information is available at ecuarts.com.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Jeremy from page A5

stand-up comedy performance

by Ron Jeremy, as well as an in depth "Inside the Porn Actors Studio" interview with him. The disc also contains the obligatory "Deleted Scenes and Outtakes" section and behind the scenes footage including many revealing shots of Jeremy's many beautiful 'friends.'

So who wants to 'be' Ron Jeremy? The man is a slovenly, hairy, disgusting man who sleeps with beautiful women half his age for a living. Sure, Tom Hanks may have more respect and Jim Carrey may have more money, but nobody has more fun than Ron Jeremy. He's a one-of-a-kind person, the likes of which will probably never be seen again.

So if you really want to 'be' Ron Jeremy, you can go ahead and shave that goofy mustache and put those ugly Hawaiian shirts away because the closest you can ever come to being the man is by buying this hysterical DVD.

On March 15, Image Entertainment will release the film on DVD. What the 40-minute film lacks in length, the production company has more than made up for by piling bonus features on the disc. The DVD includes a live

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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East Carolina University Summer School 2005

This Kobe is the real deal

Head swimming coach in his 26th year at ECU

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's not often times you meet someone named Kobe. A guy who is faithful to his family, excited about his work, a wonderful people person and just all-around the type of person you want to surround yourself with.

Someone who radiates success, although the stuff around him speaks volumes - trophies, awards, photographs with celebrities. The type of guy that, wait, you didn't think I was talking about that Kobe did you. Oh come on.

I'm speaking of Rick Kobe - head coach of one of the most successful programs in the history of ECU athletics. The Pirate men and women's swim teams is where this Kobe's success comes from. And to think all this time you thought I was talking about the Bryant kid.

Recently remarried, Rick Kobe has two daughters, Suzanne who is a sophomore at NYU, and Catherine who is a sophomore at Rose High. His wife brings three stepdaughters into the relationship, Lindsay, Tyler and Holton, who attend Parrot Academy, Rose and Oakley Elementary respectively.

Kobe is now firmly set in Greenville, a fixture here for more than 25 years, but the road to ECU was all over the place to say the least.

As a kid, the Pirate leader grew up in Vermont, so swimming was something that wasn't very popular throughout the majority of the year.

"I started swimming in the summers in Vermont," said Kobe.

"It's the only time of the year you can swim there, cause it's the



Kobe and the women's team held a No. 1 ranking among the nation's Division I Mid-Major schools for a month this year.

only time everything melts." Kobe also played basketball, baseball and football in high school, but ultimately his passion would become swimming.

"The place we swam at was a lake, which had some lanes in

it," Kobe said. "We would have our summer meets there."

"My mother used to coach in the summertime swimming, so I really started to like it and for summer swimming, I got pretty

good for being up in Vermont." Some of Kobe's old high school coaches then started to send out his name to surrounding universities in regard to some of the sports that Kobe participated in during high

school. Swimming, although never part of his high school activities, was on the list, and soon thereafter was picked up by a coach at Fairmont in West Virginia.

see KOBE page A10

Waskiewicz Diet Diary: Part III

Four pounds in three weeks isn't too bad

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
SENIOR WRITER

My legs were aching the whole week, in part due to my workouts I have been getting at the student recreation center and also in part due to the running I do in my spare time. Either way, I knew there were not going to be too many things I could do heading into the final day with my personal trainer, Leslie Warren.

To top off the pain in my legs, I managed to catch a slight cold. It was the same cold that the whole ECU campus seemed to catch within the last two weeks. My chest was a little congested and my nose was running, but I felt I was still able to do maybe a slight workout.

I made my way into the locker room to change my clothes when I realized something was going to be a slight problem. Maybe it was because I was a little tired from the night before, or maybe it was the non-drowsy Sudafed that I was on that made me do it, but I forgot to bring a change of shoes to the SRC. I was in brown casual shoes, which were heavier than my sneakers. Seeing no other alternative, I decided to wear my white t-shirt, black shorts, and brown casual shoes.

I made my way to the juice bar, looking probably like the tackiest person at the SRC. Within minutes, Warren met me and we began our workout. She had planned for me to run a mile on the track upstairs, but I was in no condition to do any running with the shoes that I had on, so she had to alter the workout a bit.

The first thing we did was jump on one of the stationary bikes on the second floor of the building. I started pedaling, instantly feeling my weary legs beginning to resist. Ten minutes is what I had in store for me. Ten minutes of pedaling with my personal trainer at my side encouraging me to keep going. To be honest, I did not think I would last the entire 10 minutes, but after the first eight, I was able to push it to the end.

Next was weight lifting time. Warren took me downstairs to the weight area and gave me dumbbells to curl. I was very acquainted to curling dumbbells in the past, so I was comfortable with this part of the workout. The only difference in curling this time was it was at a much slower pace. I was not accustomed to curling at a slower pace and it was something the soreness in my arms would not let me forget for a couple days to come.

The rest of the hour was spent lifting light weights for my back. I think every day I had Warren as a personal trainer, she managed to work in at least one back activity. I really didn't mind back exercises but before personal training I did not do them too often.

The final part of my workout was the cool down. On this day, Warren had selected the stair-stepper machines. By now, I was fully feeling the effects of my cold, but I wanted to hang in there to see how much I could do. The stair-stepper is another machine at the SRC that I really was not familiar with.

Warren set the time for 10 minutes as I stepped on the machine. After the first minute went by I knew right then, those ten minutes were just not going

see DIARIES page A10

Men's struggle to win in C-USA continues



ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

When you cover a sports program that you consider yourself a fan of, like I do, it is sometimes rough.

As much as it hurts me to write the following things because I am a fan, they are all true.

The first thing that must be addressed is free throw shooting. It is atrocious. I pointed out the numbers last week in this article and talked about how ugly they were. The Pirates didn't show any signs of improvement against Marquette when they went 16-of-30 from the line. Corey Rouse was only able to convert four times on 12 attempts.

I know when it comes to free throw shooting with this team that I seem to always point the finger at Rouse.

Rouse is such an aggressive player - he is going to get to the line a lot. This creates more free throw attempts and more criticism from me. I am so glad Rouse plays aggressively, and I am thrilled with the way he has played this season, but 4-of-12 is ridiculous. Once again, we lose a close game thanks to free throw shooting. It's starting to add up and it's starting to get out of hand.

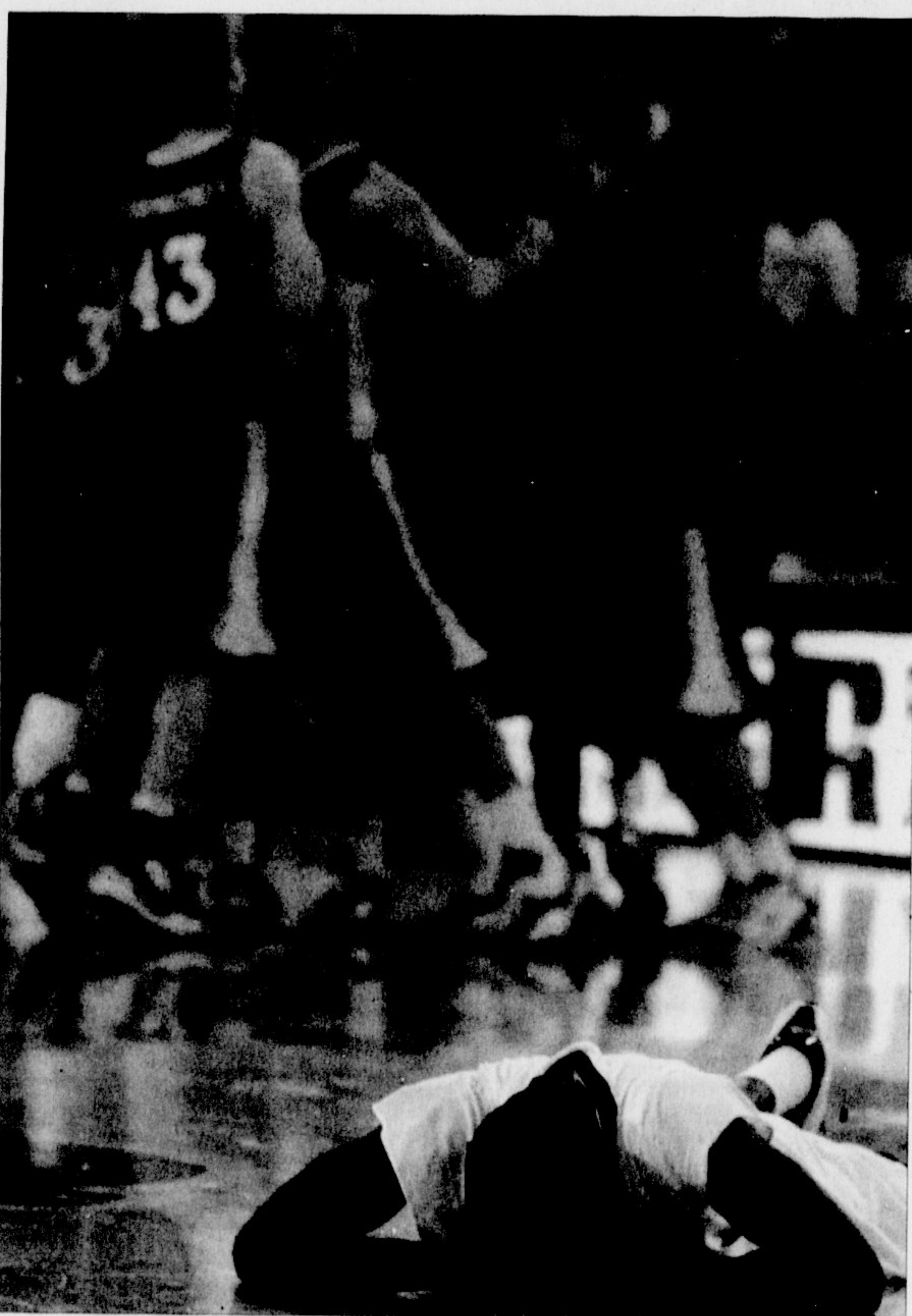
The next thing that bugs me is this team really does not know how to win. Looking at the numbers from this past Saturday without knowing the final score, I would say ECU would have won the game. They out shot their opponent (ECU 43 percent, Marquette 41 percent). They out rebounded their opponent (ECU 41 Marquette 40). Three point percentage, once again in ECU's favor (31 percent to 30 percent). ECU also made more trips to the free throw line than Marquette (30 to 27).

I really feel that when you out shoot your opponent, out rebound your opponent and you get to the line more than your opponent does, you should win that game. It really boggled my mind looking at the game stats knowing we lost this game. This team just cannot win a close game.

I really cannot figure out why - there is just something missing. I have said in so many articles we need to do this better or that better, but now I really cannot point out what we are missing, other than free throw shooting. We have the Conference USA's leading rebounder in Rouse. He also is one of the few players in the country who averages a double double. We have a go-to guy who can hit shots and create off the dribble in Mike Cook. We have two of the best defenders in the conference in Moussa and JaPhet. We have a pure shooter like Josh King. The thing we do not have is wins.

Winning does miracles for a team. After ECU beat Charlotte for its second win a row, Bill Herrion told the Pirate Sports Network how great practices had been after

see FCP page A10



Japhet McNeil lies on the court after ECU's heartbreaking loss to Marquette.

Lady Pirates sweep opponents in weekend road tournament

ECU softball stays undefeated thus far

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
SENIOR WRITER

The ECU softball team was trying to maintain their perfect record as they headed into Atlanta last weekend to take part in the Georgia State Invitational. The Lady Pirates were just coming off a season opening, which included two wins against in-state rival Campbell, and were looking to extend their win streak to six games.

Play opened last Saturday

with the Lady Pirates' first opponent, Tennessee Tech. ECU senior Mandi Nichols put the first points on the board for the Lady Pirates with a solo shot in the top of the second inning, putting the team up 1-0. ECU went on to score three more runs as they went on to win their third straight game of the season. ECU's sophomore pitcher had an outstanding game, striking out 15 in her team's 4-0 shutout.

The Lady Pirates came out swinging in their second game of the day against Charleston Southern scoring 10 runs. Junior Allison Monce hit two home runs as ECU extended their winning streak with a 10-2 victory.

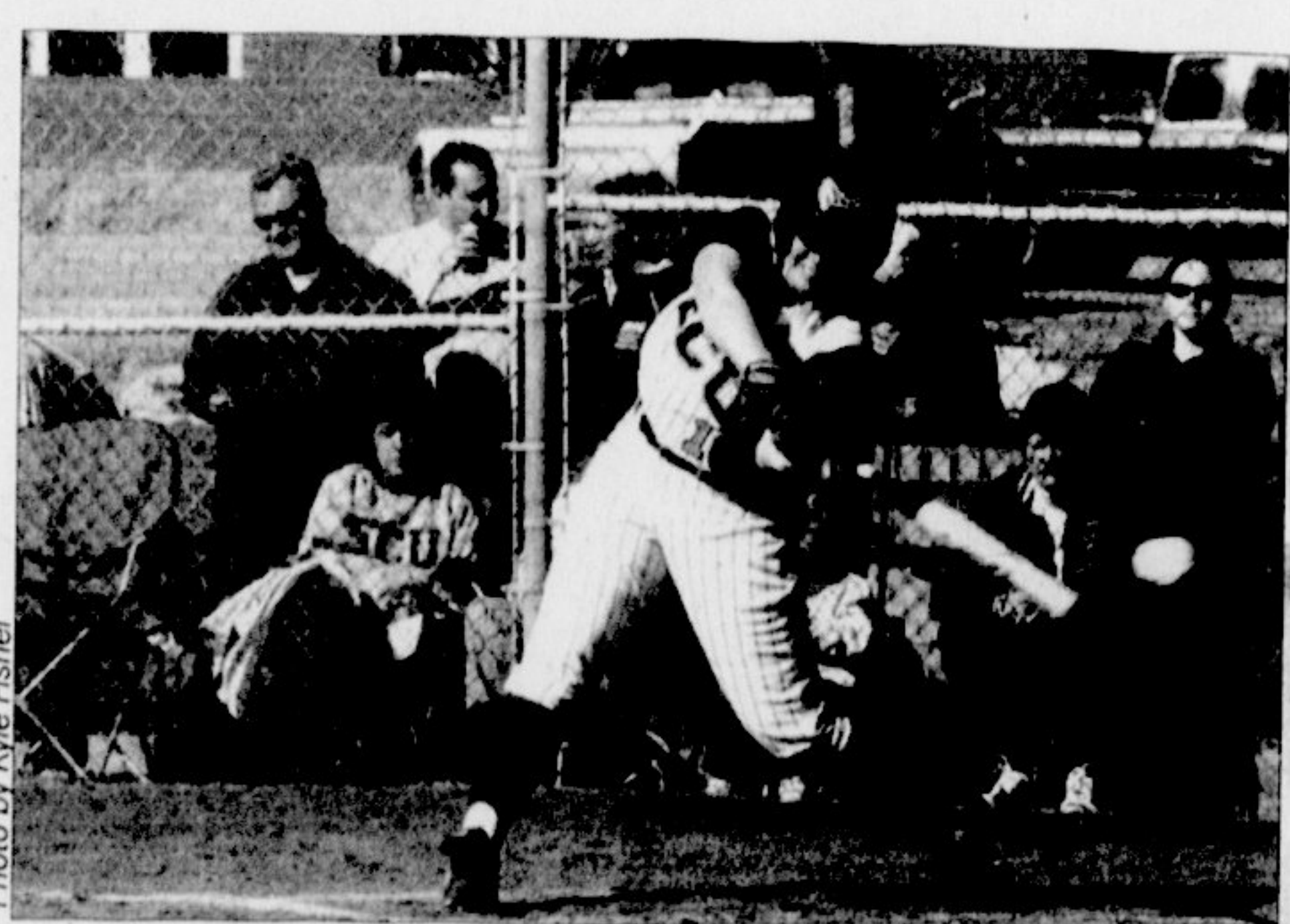
ECU was looking to keep their momentum heading into the second day of play when they faced Georgia State. The score stayed tied at 2-2 until the Lady Pirates were able to score three more runs in the sixth inning to stay on top for the 5-2 win. With the win, ECU was able to advance to the championship game where they faced Georgia State once again.

The championship game was a pitching-duel in which ECU junior pitcher Stephanie Hayes came out on top. Hayes gave up only two hits and struck out five as the Lady Pirates rolled on to a 1-0 championship win. The win kept the Lady Pirates undefeated

with a 6-0 record this season. Due to her performance in the Georgia State Invitational, Harrell was named Conference USA pitcher of the week. Harrell struck out 19 batters in 19.1 innings and posted a 2-0 record. Overall this year, Harrell is 3-0 with 34 strikeouts and a perfect 0.00 ERA.

This weekend ECU returns home to host the Pirate Classic. Teams that are taking part in the Classic include Radford, Towson, Fordham and Ohio. Play begins Friday at 2 p.m. against Radford.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



The ECU women have started the 2005 season 6-0.

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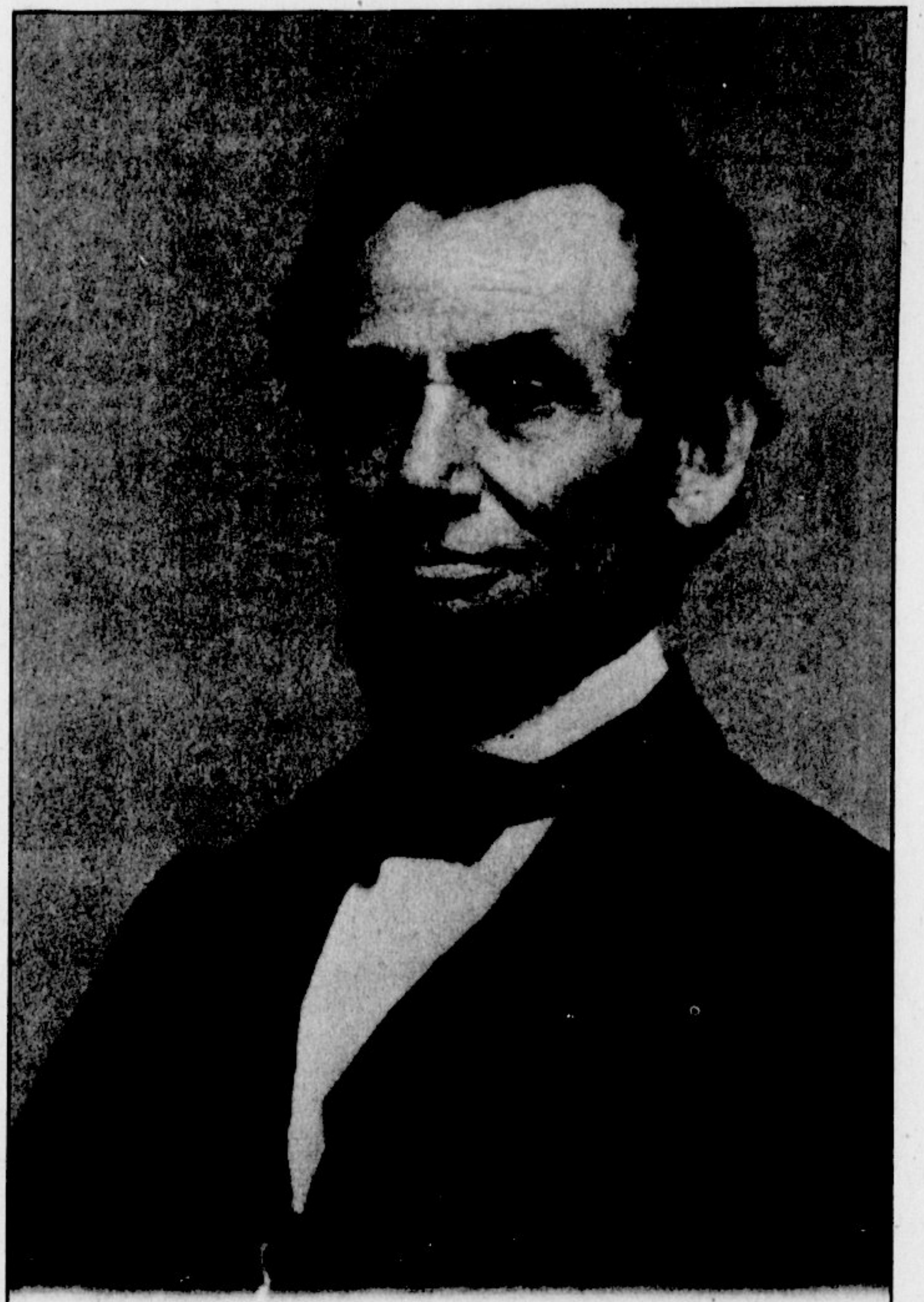
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Solutions

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- 11 Otherwise
 12 Disorderly retreat
 13 War god
 21 Environmental sci.
 23 Illinois city near St. Louis
 26 "Touched by an Angel" star
 27 Some weasels
 28 Core group
 30 Entice
 31 Small combo
 32 Give temporarily
 33 Advantage
 34 "___ la Douce"
 35 Ruminant of the woods
 36 Actor Holliman
 38 Temporary fix
 40 Single-celled organism
 43 Senselessly
 44 River of NYC
 47 Practice session
 49 Photo collection
 50 Writer Jong
 51 ___ so often
 52 Story-telling uncle
 53 California valley
 54 "The Virginian" writer Wister
 55 Trade center
 56 Eye part
 58 Middle Eastern gulf
 61 Lennon's love
 62 Bother



FCP from page A8

the Charlotte game and how high spirits were because of the win.

For some reason, as we saw in the Marquette game, this team almost always finds a way to keep a game close, but just cannot win it. It was so bad last season as well that at one point, a student brought a big sign that simply read "FINISH."

So looking ahead with only two conference wins, ECU really controls its own destiny. The NIT requires a .500 record to qualify, so that's not a possibility.

The only way this team would get into the NCAA tournament is to win the C-USA tournament, if they even get there.

If the season were to end now, ECU would not be in that tournament. Tonight, the team is in Alabama for a game with UAB. As a fan, I think we can pull it out.

As a journalist, I think UAB will run the floor with us. But after that, my two personalities finally agree. At USE, then here with Southern Miss and Houston before closing the season at Tulane.

How important are those games? If we do not win two of them, both the fan and journalist sides of me will be upset. I do not get to watch them play in the tournament, and I do not get to write about them playing in the tournament.

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Diaries from page A8

to happen that day. I was having a little difficulty breathing through my nose, and it felt as if someone had tied a 10-pound weight to each of my shoes.

At the five-minute mark, I had to stop. I just could not go on anymore. To my surprise, Warren was letting me know how good I did, instead of letting me know how bad I might have done for not finishing the machine.

A few minutes went by and we headed back upstairs for another weigh-in. I took off my shoes and stepped on the scale, 267 it read. In my three weeks with Warren, I managed to take off four pounds.

Warren and I departed ways that day. The following week, I was to have a new personal trainer. I am kind of excited to see what kind of trainer he or she will be. I have come to the conclusion that Warren was just as much of a trainer as she was a motivational speaker. She made me feel as if there was no wrong as long as I gave effort.

I left the SRC that day just wondering if my next trainer is going to be the same way. On the other hand, I could always have a trainer that pushed me to my limit and believed there was no room for failure. I figured only time would tell, as I headed out of the SRC hurt but not broken.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



Firewise tip: Landscaping with water-retaining plants helps protect your home from wildfires. Find other useful tips at Firewise.org.

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Kobe from page A8

"He was starting a team, and it was his second year of recruiting, so he figured that I was a pretty good athlete even though I didn't have a big background in swimming," Kobe said.

Kobe swam four years at Fairmont, and during his senior year was named team captain before moving on to graduate school at one of ECU's biggest rivalries at West Virginia University. He earned a degree in health and physical education from Fairmont in 1976 and went on to get his master's from WVU in the same field in 1978.

During his time there, he was named as a graduate assistant coach, where he coached the Mountaineers for two years, and received one of swimming's highest honors in the prestigious Master's Coach Award presented by the Collegiate Swimming Coaches of America.

In 1978, Kobe began coaching in the Raleigh Swimmer's Association, and in 1980 he

finally came to ECU where he served as an assistant under Ray Scharf. On March 15, 1982, Kobe was named ECU head swimming coach.

"When I took this program over, it had a rich history of swimming," Kobe said.

"It's not like when I took over, it just got really good. We weren't certainly at a level we wanted to be at, we were in one of those declining periods, but it didn't take long to get it back up."

Most people's definition of get it back up is modest success. Here's Kobe's - the winningest coach in Pirate history, a .721 win percentage, eight conference championships, coach of the year in Conference USA for the 2002-2003 season, 199 varsity records, 23 NCAA qualifiers, four NCAA All-Americans, one Olympic participant, 135 individual conference champions, 64 All-conference performers, and my keyboard just broke.

The man is a machine when

it comes to producing results, and it all starts with recruiting, something Kobe is very passionate about.

"Work ethic, it's all about work ethic," Kobe said.

"You need to go home, not just me, my staff too, go home, three or four nights a week, and make phone calls from 8 - 9:30 p.m. or 8 - 10 p.m."

"You gotta love making them, you gotta love talking to these kids on the phone. You gotta bring them in for a visit, and once you bring them in, it's in the hands of the athletes."

"This program sells itself, kids can look at it and see, how you swim, how fast you are. Swimming is all about times, usually they find places where they can fit. We try to find kids that are faster every year, so we can increase the talent level here. ECU is an easy place to recruit to, it's a great school with a beautiful campus."

Kobe isn't always business

though. He has been an avid racquetball player for many years, and he just recently took up tennis. And of course, he likes golf, whenever he gets time to play.

As far as the laid back side of coaching goes, he takes his teams on yearly bonding trips, which include kayaking and the beach among other things.

The parents support Kobe's every move as well, as everywhere the team goes, whether it's for business or pleasure, a family will bring the team in, all 60 of them, and cook dinner for the whole crew.

So while Kobe understands how to be successful in the pool, he appreciates at the same time the time the team gets to spend together because they may otherwise never get that time because of such a busy pool schedule.

Someone who understands the ways of coaching so intricately, probably had a burning desire since a very young age to coach right?

"I was a senior in college, and I had no clue what I wanted to do," Kobe said.

"I was sitting outside with a bunch of my teammates before practice and my coach ran by with the track coach and a couple of his friends and I said 'You know what, he looks like he's happy, and likes what he's doing.' Right then I said 'You know what, maybe I wanna do that,' and it just happened right there."

Wow, right there? You know, if we all could decide our senior year in college what we wanted to do and be as successful as Kobe has been, then the world would be a better place. We all know that's unrealistic, and that's why Kobe is one of a kind, because he decides he wants to do something, and whole heartedly pursues it until he gets the results he wants.

Something tells me he's not done yet either.

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